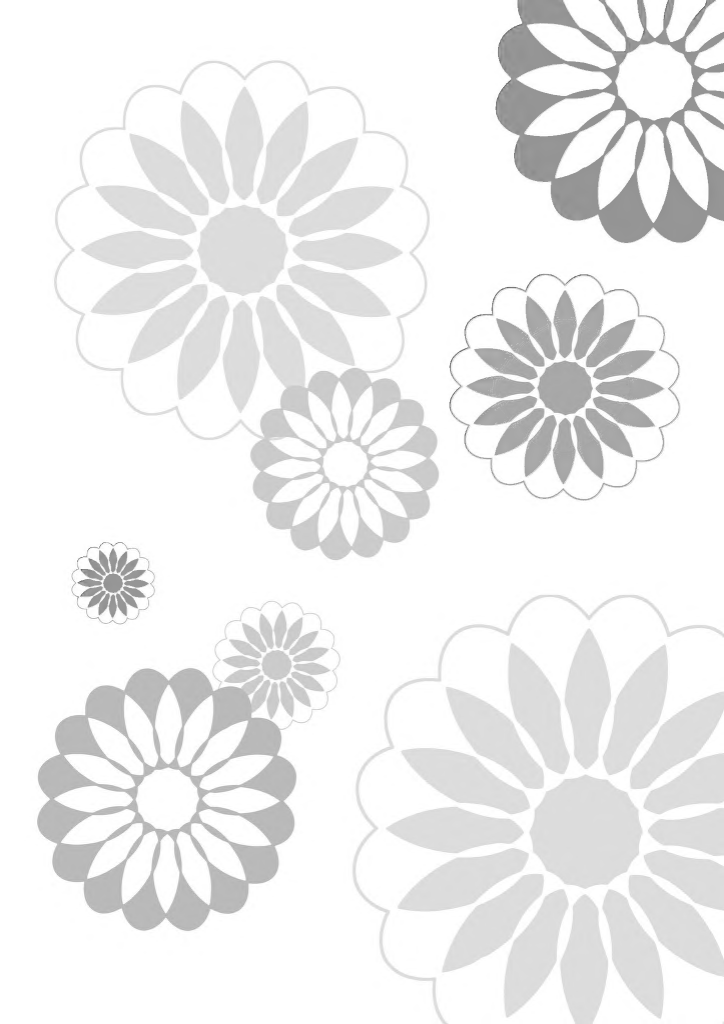
Oh My Goddess!

ああ女神さまっ

藤島康介

KOSUKE FUJISHIMA

13



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 13

STORY AND ART BY
Kosuke Fujishima

ORIGINAL TRANSLATION BY
Dana Lewis AND Toren Smith

LETTERING AND TOUCH-UP BY
Susie Lee AND Betty Dong
WITH Tom2K

DARK HORSE MANGA™

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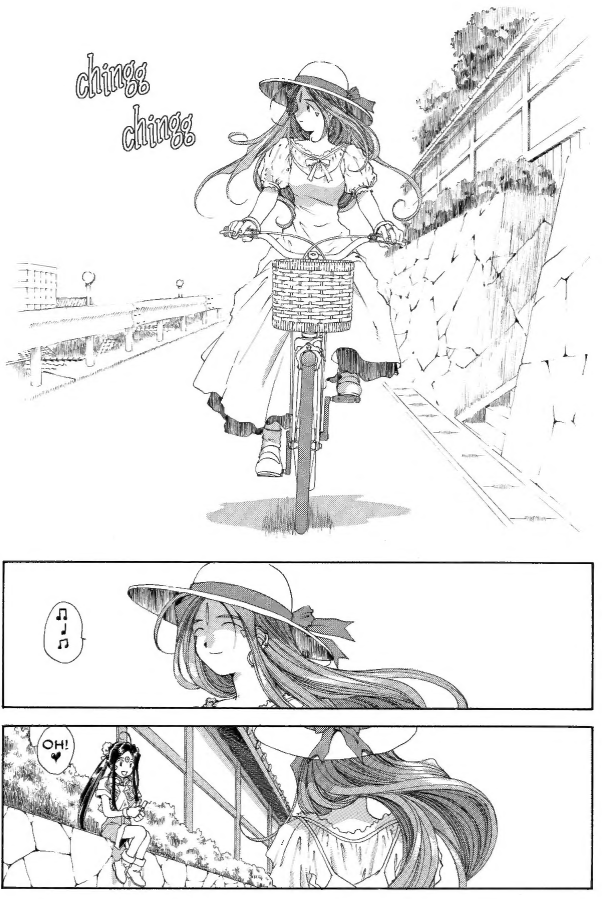
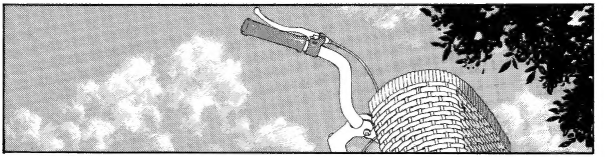
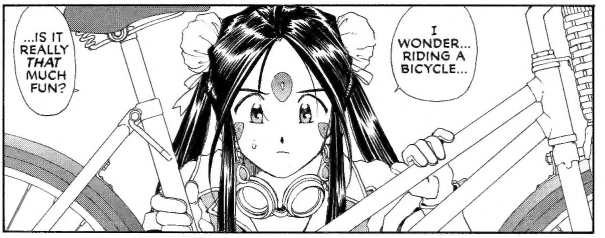
CHAPTER 73

Mean Sister

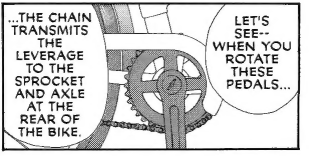

chingg
chingg
♫
OH!

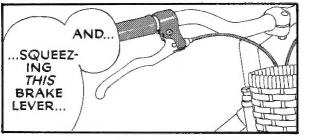
GREAT, SKULD!
HOW WAS YOUR TRIP?
BIG SISTER!
Yahoo!
I BROUGHT BACK SOME ICE CREAM FOR YOU!
BIG SIS...
...YOU LOOK SO HAPPY.
...

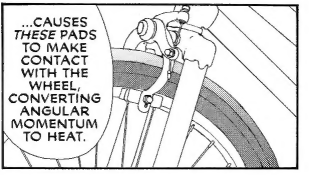



...IS IT REALLY *THAT* MUCH FUN?
I WONDER... RIDING A BICYCLE...

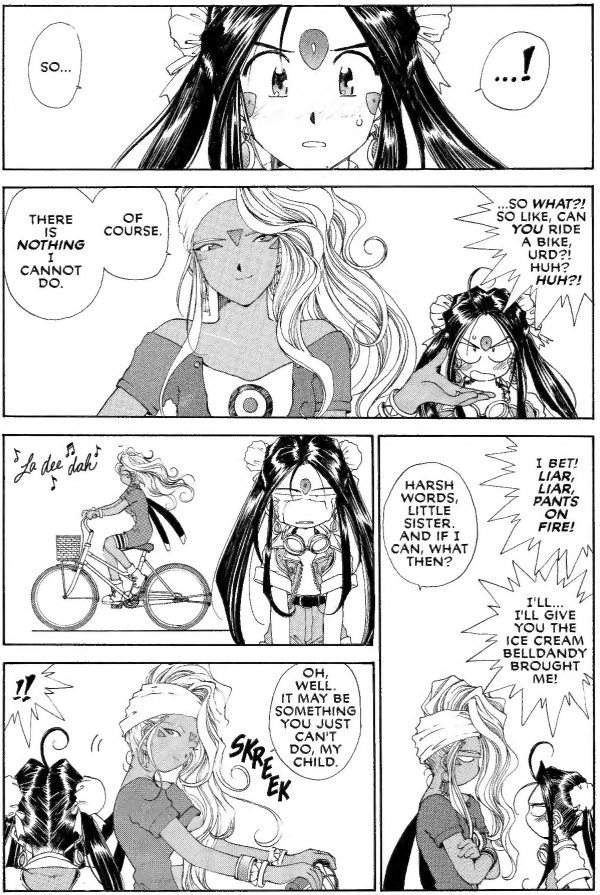
HMM. EXTREME SIMPLICITY, YET STRANGELY LOGICAL.
NOW, *THIS* JOINT COULD USE SOME IMPROVEMENT.
I WONDER WHY THE FRAME ISN'T MORE PERFECTLY TRIANGULAR? STRANGE.
NO SHOCK ABSORBERS, BUT IN THEIR PLACE, AIR-BLADDER TIRES, AND A SPRING SUSPENSION FOR THE SEAT.

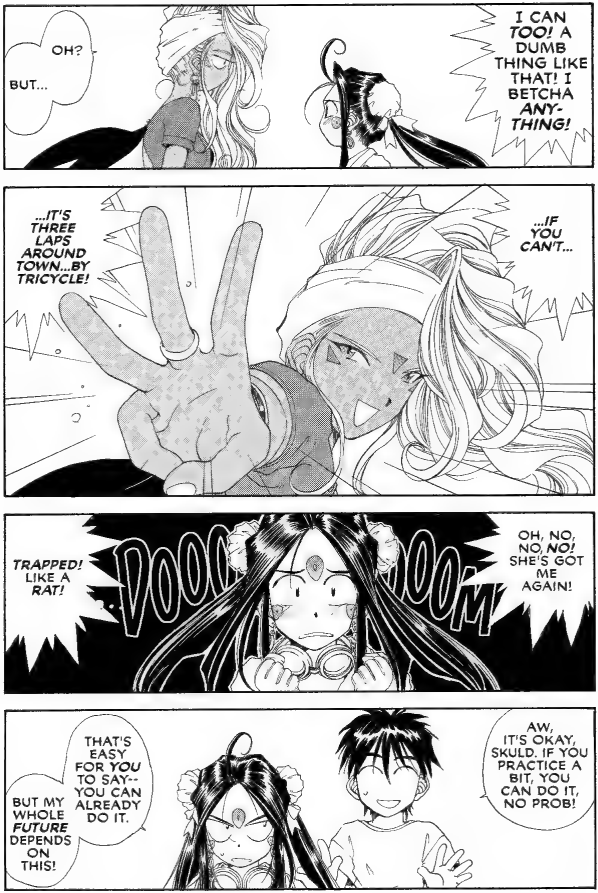

...THE CHAIN TRANSMITS THE LEVERAGE TO THE SPROCKET AND AXLE AT THE REAR OF THE BIKE.
LET'S SEE-- WHEN YOU ROTATE THESE PEDALS...


AND...
...SQUEEZING *THIS* BRAKE LEVER...

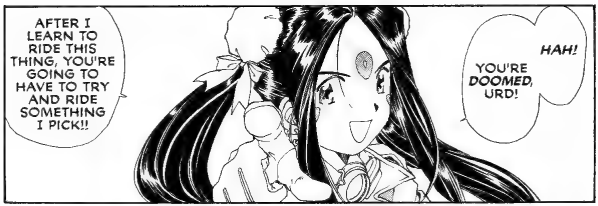

...CAUSES *THESE* PADS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE WHEEL, CONVERTING ANGULAR MOMENTUM TO HEAT.

I WAS MERELY EXAMINING A TECHNO-LOGICAL ARTIFACT!
RI--?!
NO! I ABSO-LUTELY DO NOT WANT TO RIDE IT!
YOU WANNA RIDE IT?
GEEZ... EVEN BELDANDY THINKS I'M...
tee hee
AH. I SEE.
AFTER ALL, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW... DO YOU?
OH, I QUITE UNDER-STAND, DEAR.

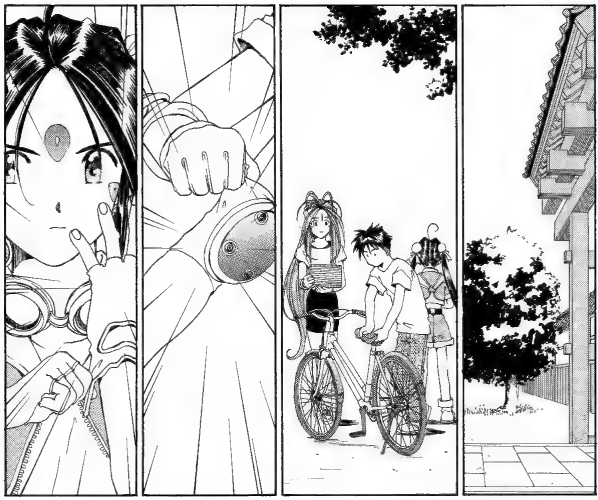

SO...
...!
THERE IS NOTHING I CANNOT DO.
OF COURSE.
...SO WHAT?! SO LIKE, CAN YOU RIDE A BIKE, URD?! HUH? HUH?!
♪La dee dah♪
HARSH WORDS, LITTLE SISTER. AND IF I CAN, WHAT THEN?
I BET! LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE!
I'LL... I'LL GIVE YOU THE ICE CREAM BELLDANDY BROUGHT ME!
!?
OH, WELL. IT MAY BE SOMETHING YOU JUST CAN'T DO, MY CHILD.
SKREEK


OH?
BUT...
I CAN *TOO!* A DUMB THING LIKE THAT! I BETCHA *ANY-THING!*
...IT'S THREE LAPS AROUND TOWN...BY TRICYCLE!
...IF YOU CAN'T...
TRAPPED! LIKE A *RAT!*
OH, NO, NO, *NO!* SHE'S GOT ME AGAIN!
BUT MY WHOLE *FUTURE* DEPENDS ON THIS!
THAT'S EASY FOR *YOU* TO SAY-- YOU CAN ALREADY DO IT.
AW, IT'S OKAY, SKULD. IF YOU PRACTICE A BIT, YOU CAN DO IT, NO PROB!

I'D LOVE TO BE ABLE TO GO ON RIDES TOGETHER WITH YOU, SKULD.
I'D BE GLAD TO HELP YOU LEARN, TOO!
OH, YES, MY DEAR WONDERFUL SWEET BIG SISTER!
HEY... WHAT ABOUT ME...?
IF BELL-DANDY'S GONNA HELP ME, I'VE NOTHING TO FEAR!
IT'S A DONE DEAL!
I DON'T MUCH LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT...
BWA HAW HAW HAW!


AFTER I LEARN TO RIDE THIS THING, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TRY AND RIDE SOMETHING I PICK!!
HAH!
YOU'RE DOOMED, URD!

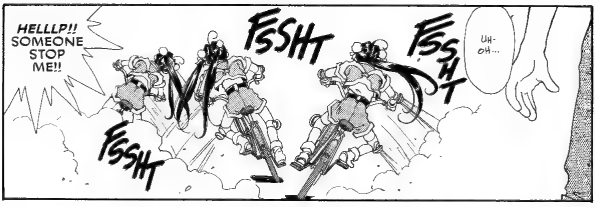
...IF SHE CAN'T DO IT, WILL SHE REALLY PEDAL AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD THREE TIMES? ON A TRIKE?
I WASN'T ACTUALLY BEING SERIOUS, ^_^ BUT...



OKAY, SKULD, LET'S TAKE IT A STEP AT A TIME.
YES, SISTER DEAR!
YOU'LL DO FINE. I'LL HELP KEEP THE BIKE BALANCED AT FIRST, THEN--
RIGHT!
UH... I MEAN, WHY?
"WHY"...?
I DON'T NEED ANYONE TO HOLD ME UP.
AND THAT'S BE-CAUSE...

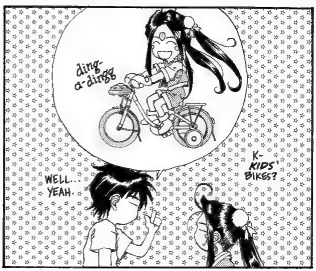
WHOA!
...I'M A GENIUS!
WHOOP! YEEP! AAH!
OOPS
OH, NO! SHE'S GONNA CRASH!
wobble
wobble
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T NEED ANY HELP!
TAA-DAA! IT'S THE SKULD SPECIAL ACTIVE BALANCER KNEE-PAD!
SHOOSHH

YOW!


HELLLP!! SOMEONE STOP ME!!
FSSHT
FSSHT
FSSHT
UH-OH...

GOOD IDEA! LIKE ONE OF THOSE KIDS' BIKES!
WAIT! I KNOW! I JUST HAVE TO ADD OUTRIGGER WHEELS!

OKAY, OKAY! HAVEN'T GOT ALL THE BUGS WORKED OUT YET!
Sha aa
Sha hh


ding-a-dingg
WELL, YEAH.
K. KIDS' BIKES?

WHY ON EARTH DIDN'T I THINK OF IT *BEFORE*...?
I'M INSTALLING A GYROSCOPE FOR AN ***AUTO-BALANCER SYSTEM...!***
JUST WHAT IT *LOOKS* LIKE!
...NOW WHAT?
HEH, HEH, HEH!
HEY...DO ALL THAT STUFF, AND IT WON'T EVEN BE A BICYCLE ANY-MORE.
BETTER ADD A MOTOR, TOO.
HMM... THOSE HILLS COULD BE TOUGH.
BICYCLES ARE FUN ***BECAUSE*** OF THE WAY THEY ARE.
HE'S RIGHT, SKULD.

"SOMETIMES SWIRLING ABOUT YOU SOMETIMES SLIPPING PLACIDLY BY."
"ON A BICYCLE YOU CONVERSE WITH THE WIND."
"...YOU CAN FEEL THE VERY DENSITY OF THE AIR CHANGE."
"AS YOU PASS FROM THE WARM SUN INTO THE COOL SHADE..."
"IT'S A DIALOGUE THAT BEGINS WITH THE POWER OF YOUR OWN BODY."
"...THE FLOW OF GREEN LEAVES, THE SKY AND THE CLOUDS, ENFOLDING YOU IN THE WORLD AROUND YOU..."

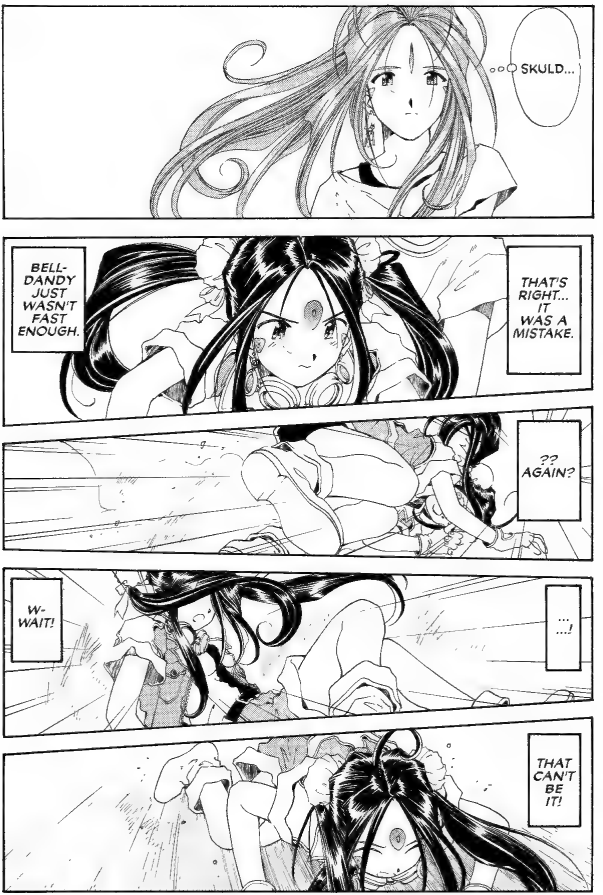
AND THAT'S WHY I *ADORE* RIDING MY BICYCLE.
OOOOOOOOOHH!!
GOOD! THEN LET'S GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY!
WHOA... SHE EVEN GOT TO *ME* WITH THAT!
BELL-DANDY, I'LL DO *ANYTHING* TO FEEL THAT WAY!!
YES!!
OKAY, OKAY!
C'MON, YOU GOTTA HOLD THE BIKE FOR ME, OKAY?!
WHAT'RE YOU STANDING AROUND FOR, KEIICHI!?!

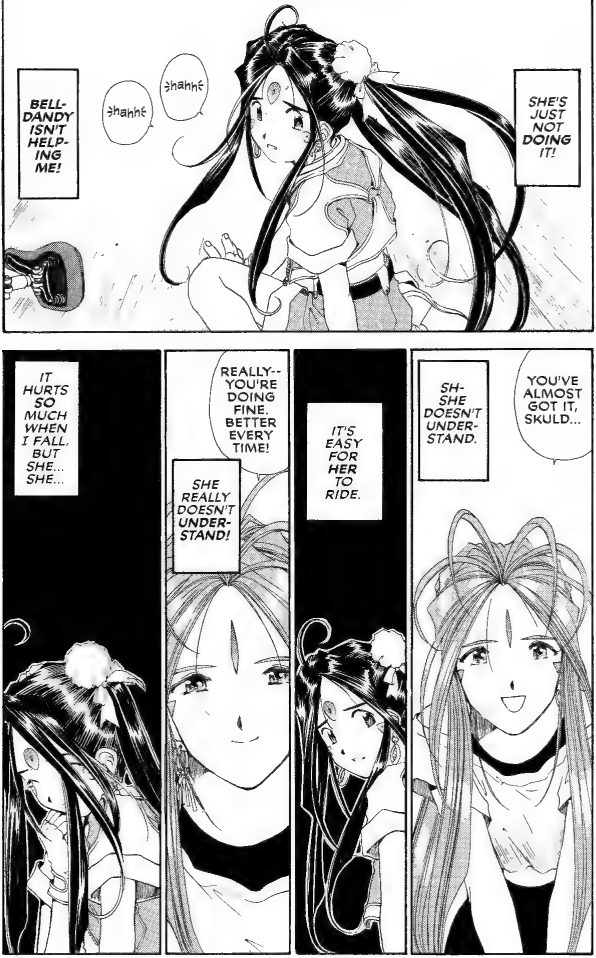
EEK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK THERE?!
THERE'S NO PLACE ELSE TO PUSH, SKULD!
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD!
JUST WATCH THOSE HANDS, BUSTER!
OKAY, PEDAL NOW! GENTLY!
rrrgg!
GENTLY! GENTLY!
GOOD, GOOD! DOING GOOD!

RIGHT ABOUT NOW...?
UM...
um...
HERE WE GO...
B-BIG SISTER ...!!
HELP ME!
AH!
AHH!

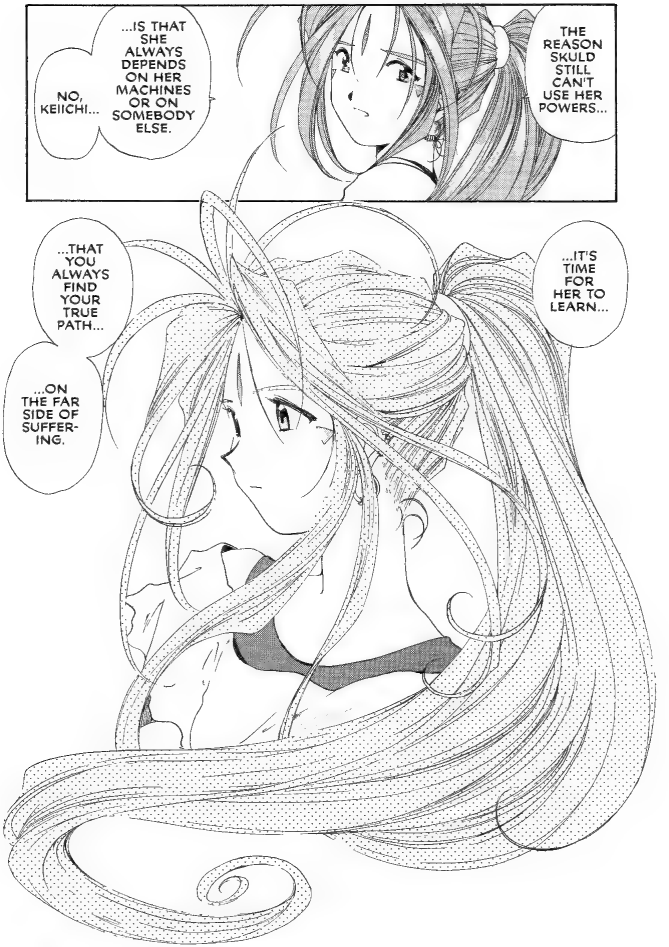
...SHE ...?
SHE... SHE DIDN'T HELP ME...
EEK!
SKULD! ARE YOU OKAY...?
HERE-- LET'S TRY IT ONE MORE TIME!
OH, GOOD! YOU'RE NOT HURT.

?
THIS TIME HOLD THE BIKE *RIGHT*, PLEASE!
OH, GEEZ... I HOPE SHE DOESN'T CRY!
SORRY, SORRY! GUESS I LET GO TOO SOON.
NO... NO, I MUST HAVE JUST BEEN IMAGINING THINGS.
O-OKAY.
OKAY!
THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING, TOO.
KEIICHI ...?
...
...

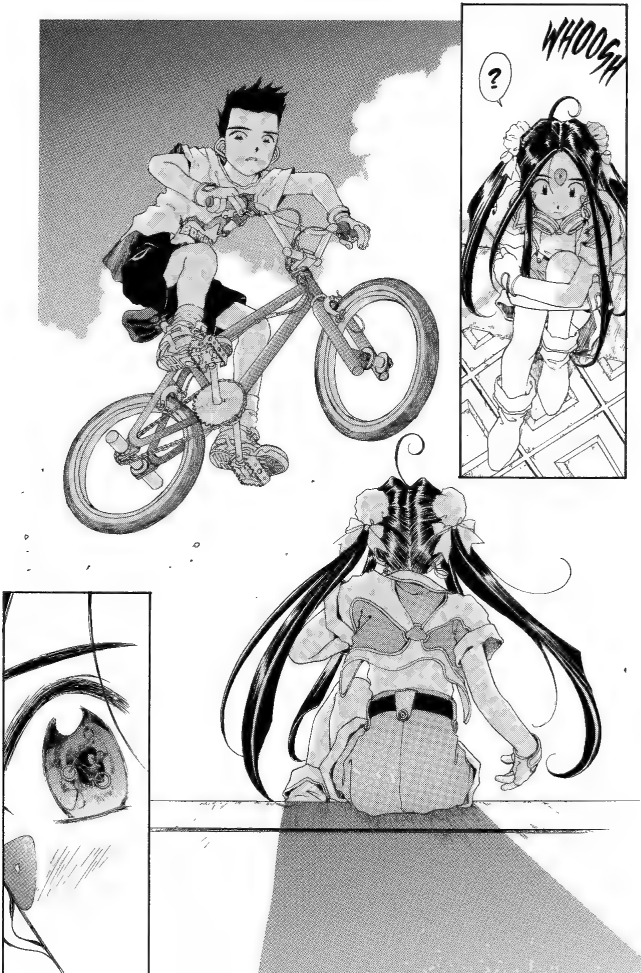

SKULD...
BELL-DANDY JUST WASN'T FAST ENOUGH.
THAT'S RIGHT... IT WAS A MISTAKE.
?? AGAIN?
W-WAIT!
...!
THAT CAN'T BE IT!

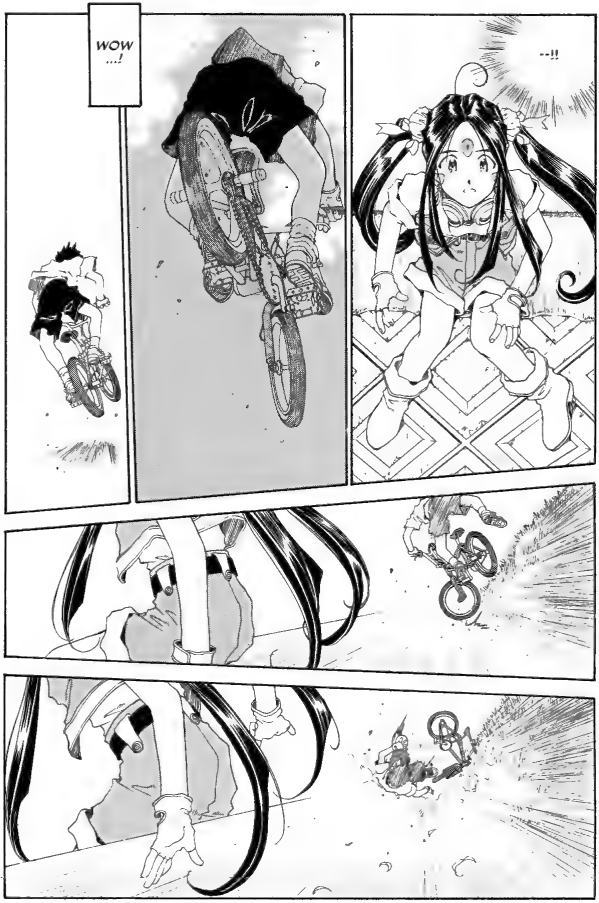

BELL-DANDY ISN'T HELP-ING ME!
SHE'S JUST NOT DOING IT!
IT HURTS SO MUCH WHEN I FALL, BUT SHE... SHE...
SHE REALLY DOESN'T UNDER-STAND!
REALLY-- YOU'RE DOING FINE. BETTER EVERY TIME!
IT'S EASY FOR HER TO RIDE.
SH-SHE DOESN'T UNDER-STAND.
YOU'VE ALMOST GOT IT, SKULD...

GODDESSES DON'T NEED TO RIDE BICYCLES ANYWAY!
I SAID I QUIT!
EH ...?
I QUIT.
NOBODY EVER HELPS ME!
NO.
...MAYBE WE WERE A BIT TOO HARD ON HER...?
GEE...


THE REASON SKULD STILL CAN'T USE HER POWERS...
...IS THAT SHE ALWAYS DEPENDS ON HER MACHINES OR ON SOMEBODY ELSE.
NO, KEIICHI...
...IT'S TIME FOR HER TO LEARN...
...THAT YOU ALWAYS FIND YOUR TRUE PATH...
...ON THE FAR SIDE OF SUFFER-ING.

"...AND THAT YOU CAN... YOU *MUST*... GET THERE BY YOURSELF."
HUH! STUPID BIKES!
WHO NEEDS THEM ?!

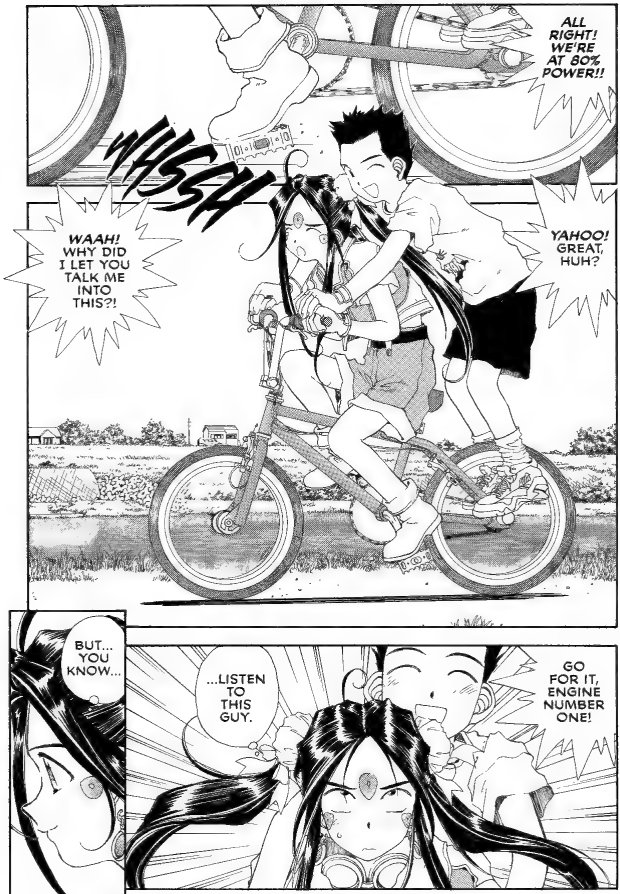

WHOOSH
?


wow ...!
--!!

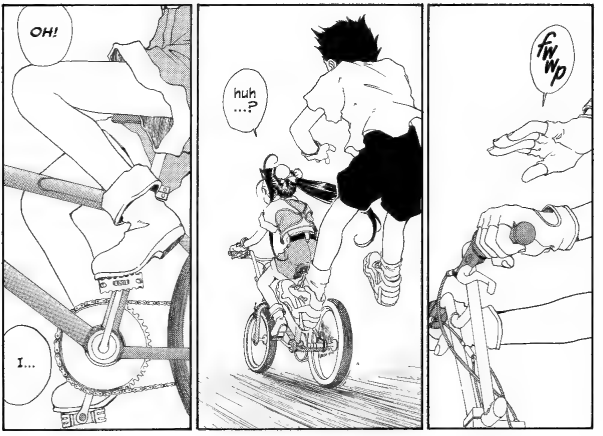
I JUST KINDA MESSED UP MY LANDING.
YEAH, I'M FINE, FINE.
GEE! IS IT OKAY?!
OWW!
I MEANT THE BIKE.
...?
BUT THAT WON'T HURT HOW IT RIDES.
UH, YEAH. THINK SO. COUPLE NEW SCRATCHES, MAYBE.
COOL... YOU LIKE BIKES?
...!
I'LL TIGHTEN IT FOR YOU.
YOUR CHAIN'S A BIT LOOSE.

NOPE. I HATE 'EM.
HUH?
IT *HURTS* WHEN YOU CRASH.
AND MY BIG SISTER DOESN'T EVEN CARE.
SO WHO'D EVEN WANT TO RIDE THE STUPID THINGS?!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!
BIKES ARE FUN *BECAUSE* THEY CAN CRASH!
THE THRILL IS KEEPING SOMETHING UNDER CONTROL WHEN IT WANTS TO WIPE OUT.
OTHERWISE YOU MAY AS WELL JUST RIDE AROUND ON A TRICYCLE OR SOMETHING!

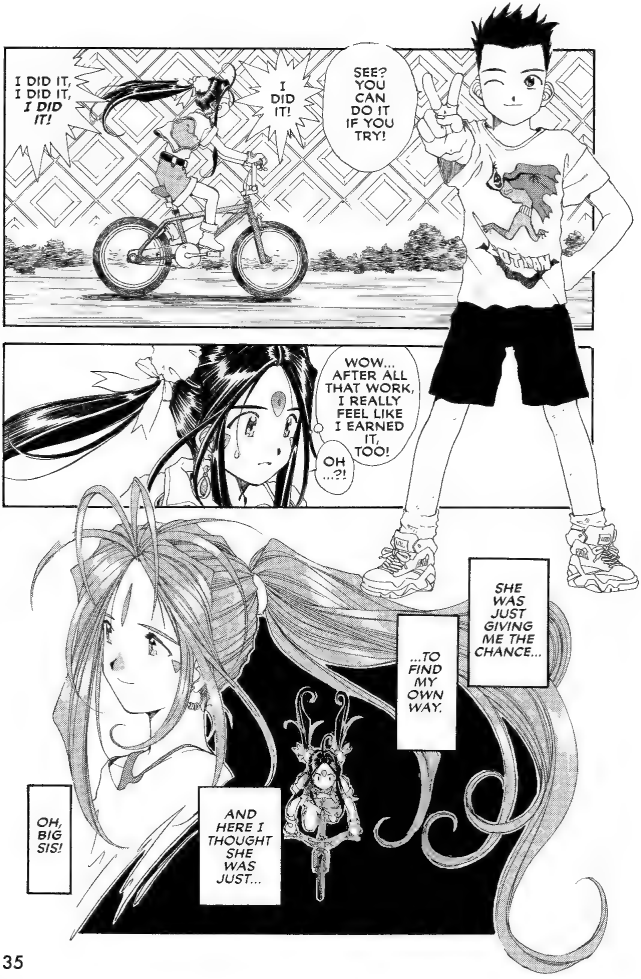
NO.
YOU DON'T?
...I DON'T GET THAT AT ALL.
HEH...
...?
H-HUH?
THEN YOU NEED TO HANG WITH ME A BIT AND I'LL *SHOW* YOU!
AW, C'MON! IT'LL BE FINE!
FORGET IT! ***NO WAY!!***
Y-YOU WANT ME TO DO ***WHAT ?!***


ALL RIGHT! WE'RE AT 80% POWER!!
WHSSH
YAHOO! GREAT, HUH?
WAAH! WHY DID I LET YOU TALK ME INTO THIS?!
GO FOR IT, ENGINE NUMBER ONE!
...LISTEN TO THIS GUY.
BUT... YOU KNOW...

...SO MUCH SPEED, JUST FROM MY OWN LEGS...
...IT'S COOL.
YOU KNOW... MAYBE BICYCLES ARE KIND OF FUN!
EEK!
ALL RIGHT-- SLALOM!
...BUT THE WIND FEELS SO SOFT AND GENTLE.
THE SCENERY RUSHING BY IN A BLUR...

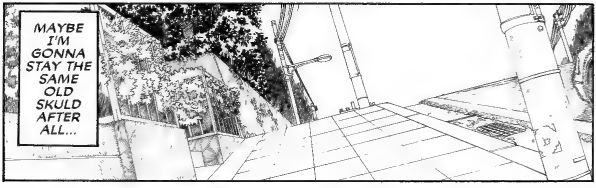


...I'M RIDING!

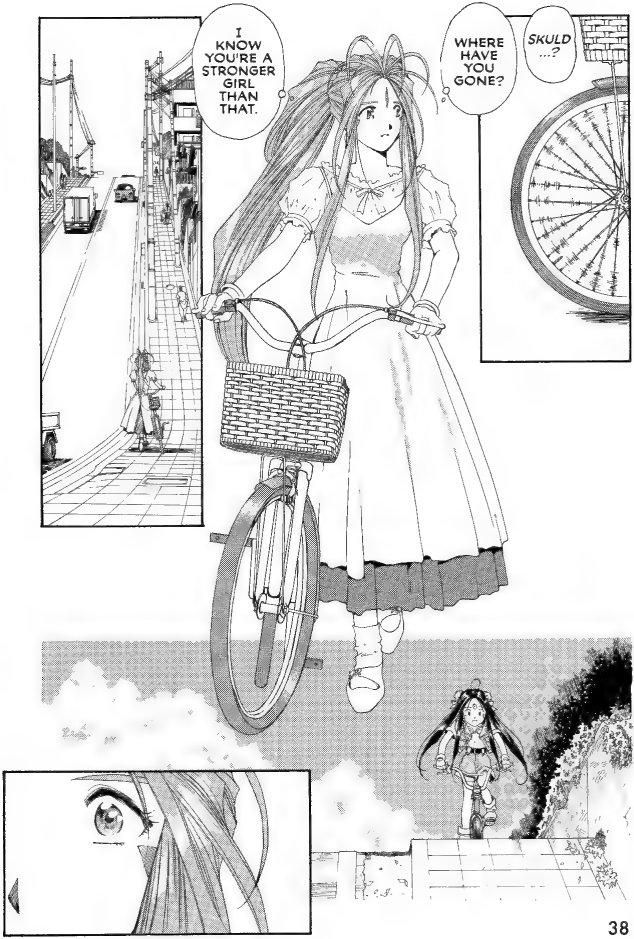

I DID IT, I DID IT, I DID IT!
I DID IT!
SEE? YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU TRY!
WOW... AFTER ALL THAT WORK, I REALLY FEEL LIKE I EARNED IT, TOO!
OH ...?!
SHE WAS JUST GIVING ME THE CHANCE...
...TO FIND MY OWN WAY.
AND HERE I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST...
OH, BIG SIS!

'SCUSE ME! I'LL BRING YOUR BIKE BACK LATER!
GO FOR IT!
HUH?
HEY... WAIT A SEC...
I DON'T REMEMBER THE SHORTCUT HAVING ALL THESE HILLS...
WHEWW... I KNEW IT NEEDED AN ENGINE.
PHEW
PHAHHS
I WON'T DEPEND ON ANYTHING EXCEPT MYSELF ANYMORE!
BELL-DANDY, I...I'M GONNA BE DIFFERENT FROM NOW ON!

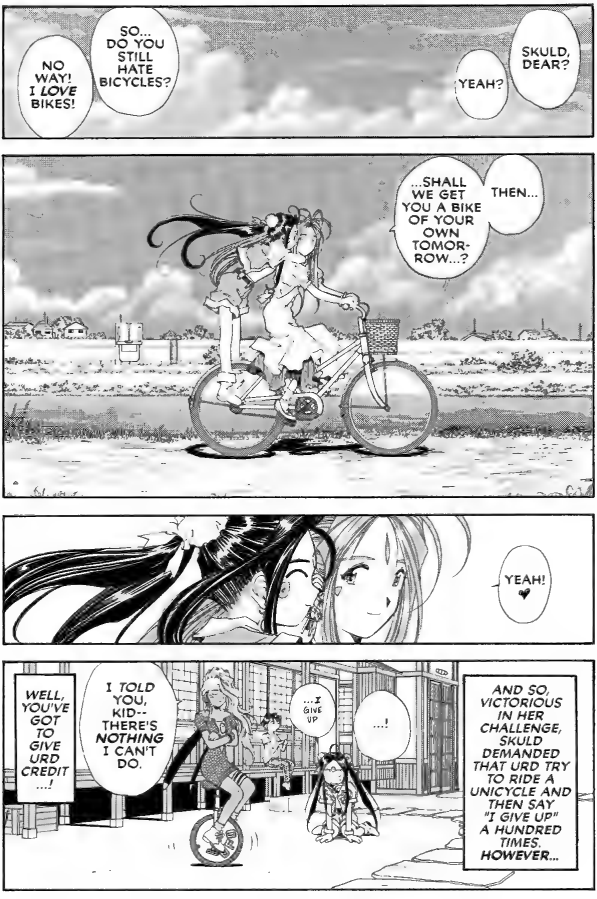
SORRY, BIG SIS...
I...I WANNA GIVE UP.
shuffle
shahhh


MAYBE I'M GONNA STAY THE SAME OLD SKULD AFTER ALL...

BIG SIS ...!


I KNOW YOU'RE A STRONGER GIRL THAN THAT.
WHERE HAVE YOU GONE?
SKULD ...?

HEY, SIS! LOOK AT ME!


NO WAY! I *LOVE* BIKES!
SO... DO YOU STILL HATE BICYCLES?
YEAH?
SKULD, DEAR?
...SHALL WE GET YOU A BIKE OF YOUR OWN TOMOR-ROW...?
THEN...
YEAH! ❤
WELL, YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE URD CREDIT ...!
*I TOLD YOU, KID-- THERE'S **NOTHING** I CAN'T DO.*
...I GIVE UP
...!
AND SO, VICTORIOUS IN HER CHALLENGE, SKULD DEMANDED THAT URD TRY TO RIDE A UNICYCLE AND THEN SAY "I GIVE UP" A HUNDRED TIMES. HOWEVER...

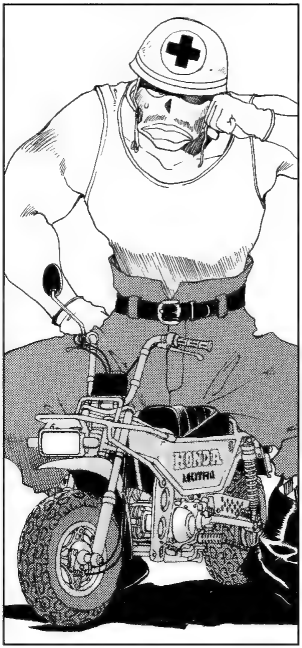
THE *GODDESS!* GARAGE

A look at the vehicles owned by each character

女神用語の基礎知識　ガレージ拝見

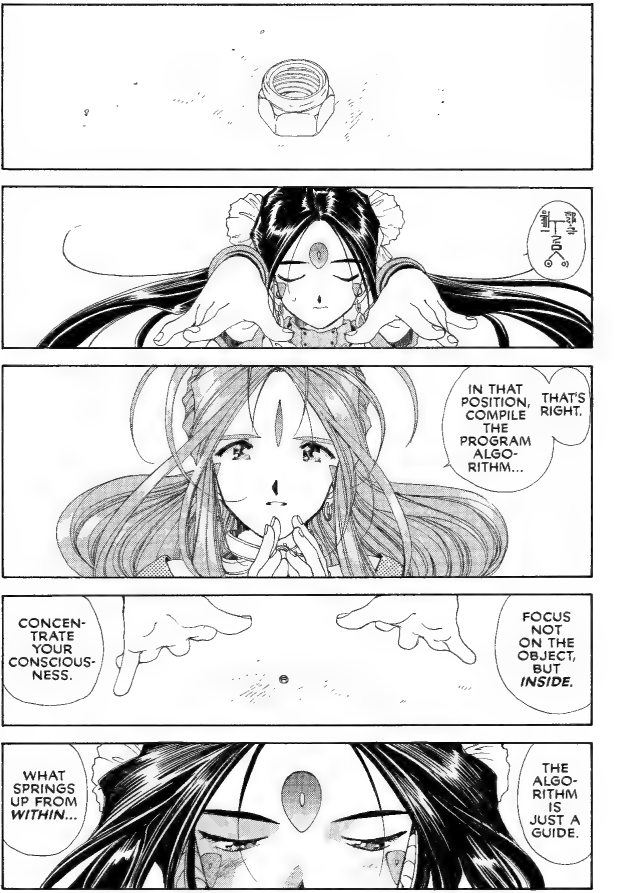
SPECIAL BONUS ARTICLE!

Honda CT50 Motra



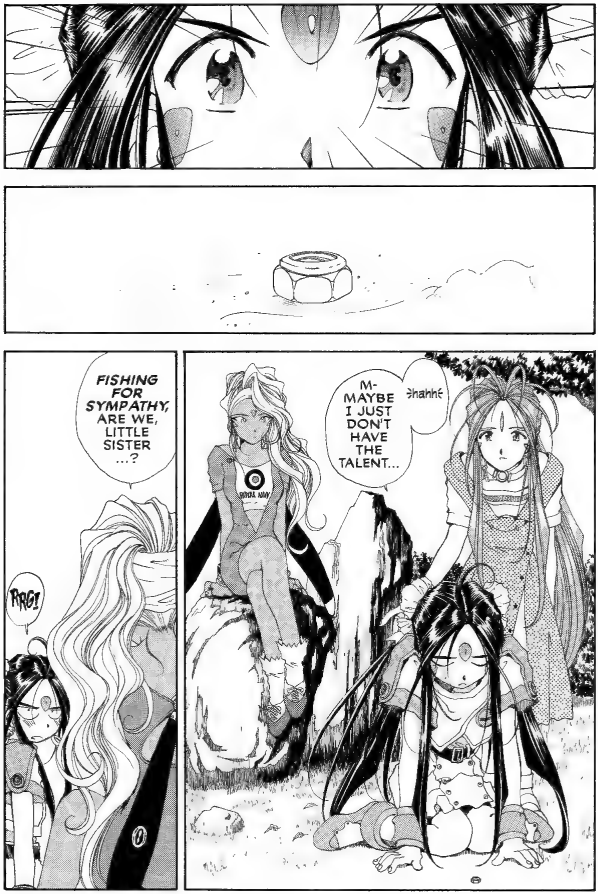
Toraichi Tamiya bestrides this four-stroke, air-cooled, single-cylinder, 49cc bike like a colossus, and whereas one horse might have difficulty carrying Tamiya, the Motra's 4.5 horsepower can cart him around with ease. For that matter, Tamiya can cart around the Motra, as it only weighs 76 kilograms. The Motra had a very brief production run during 1982–83. A tough, and tough-looking, minibike, it provides two different levels on its three gear speeds. One level is designed for off-road, steep conditions, where the Motra can climb grades of up to 23 degrees.

Kosuke Fujishima comments, "They're not making them now, and that's something sad. It has a militaristic design, and fits Tamiya's *doboku* [hard-hat worker—*ed.*] style very well. It only came in two colors: Motra-Green, and Motra-Yellow, which seems a little militaristic, too. Tamiya prefers the green, but I had thought originally that yellow was the more industrial, utilitarian look, and perhaps that would have been better. When I was drawing his Motra, I didn't have many references on hand, so I worked really hard on getting it right. And, wouldn't you know it, just as soon as I had finished, some Motra club came roaring down the street—dozens of them. Now, that's something *really* sad."


THAT'S RIGHT.
IN THAT POSITION, COMPILE THE PROGRAM ALGO-RITHM...
FOCUS NOT ON THE OBJECT, BUT *INSIDE*.
CONCEN-TRATE YOUR CONSCIOUS-NESS.
THE ALGO-RITHM IS JUST A GUIDE.
WHAT SPRINGS UP FROM *WITHIN*...

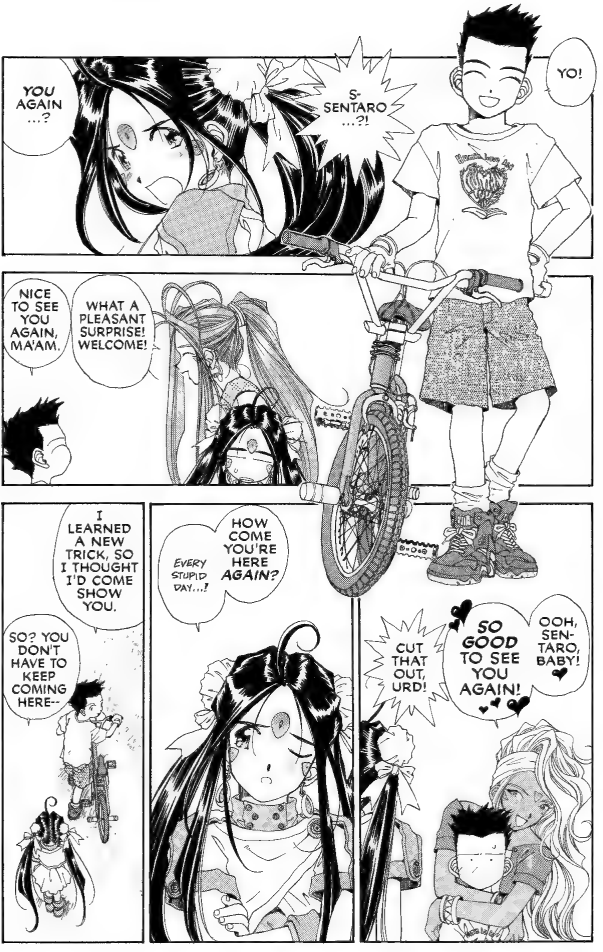
CHAPTER 74

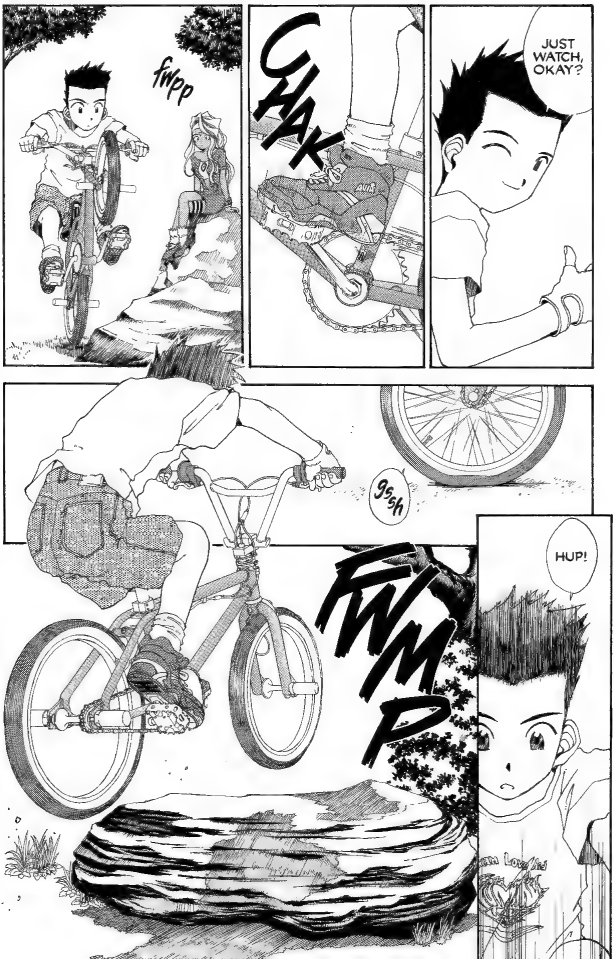
Crazy Little Thing Called Love


FISHING FOR SYMPATHY, ARE WE, LITTLE SISTER ...?
HRG!
M-MAYBE I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TALENT...
Shhhh

PEOPLE WHO'VE ALREADY DONE EVERYTHING ELSE THEY CAN GET TO TALK ABOUT TALENT.
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN DONE YOUR BASIC HOME-WORK, KID.
LOOKY, LOOKY... E-2!
YOU JUST SHUT UP, URD!!
SHE'S RIGHT, SKULD.
IF YOU GIVE UP, ALL POSSIBILI-TIES ARE LOST.
YES! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
SHUT UP!!!
I SAID SHUT UP!!

REMEMBER HOW HARD YOU WORKED TO RIDE THE BICYCLE ...?
!
THAT'S RIGHT.
I NEARLY FORGOT.
BACK THEN, I PROMISED MYSELF...
...I WON'T GIVE UP SO EASY EVER AGAIN.
SO NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE...
WHATCHA DOIN'?
YOW!


YO!
S-SENTARO ...?!
YOU AGAIN ...?
WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE! WELCOME!
NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MA'AM.
HOW COME YOU'RE HERE AGAIN?
EVERY STUPID DAY...!
I LEARNED A NEW TRICK, SO I THOUGHT I'D COME SHOW YOU.
SO? YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP COMING HERE--
OOH, SEN-TARO, BABY!
SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
CUT THAT OUT, URD!


fwpp
CHAK
JUST WATCH, OKAY?
gssh
FWMP
HUP!

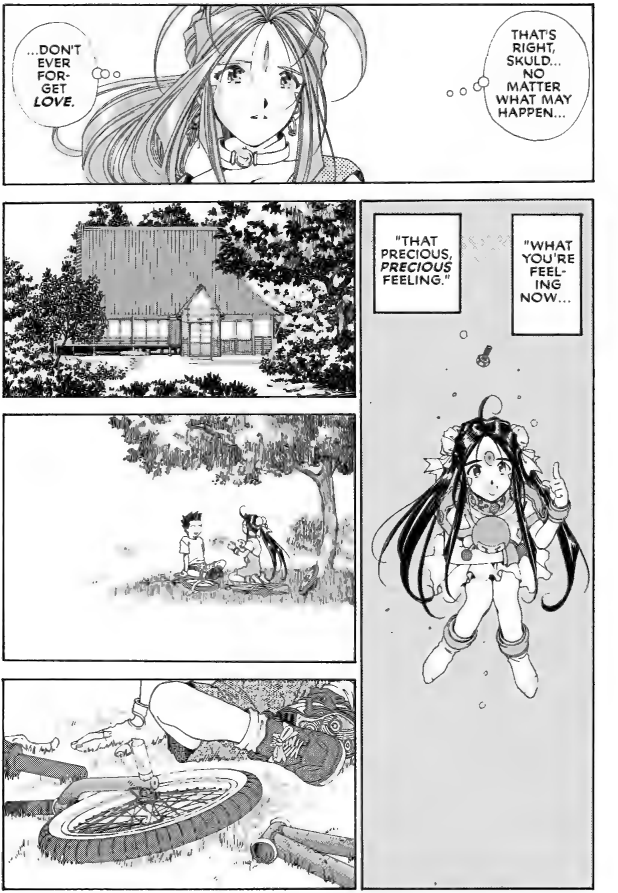
FWOO
OOOOOOOOOOOOH!
CLAP
CLAP
TAA-
PAA!
CLAP
CLAP
HOW ON EARTH DO YOU LEARN TO DO THINGS LIKE THAT?!
THAT'S JUST WONDER-FUL!
WONDER-FUL!
I LOVE IT!
EASY!

WH..WHY IS IT THAT EVERY TIME I HEAR THE WORD "LOVE" THESE DAYS, MY *HEART* JUMPS...?
...?
IS IT THAT *WORD*? "LOVE" ...?
YES... IT'S LIKE A SWITCH I HAVE INSIDE.

ARE YOU OKAY, SKULD? YOUR FACE IS SO RED!
MAYBE YOU GOT HEAT-STROKE...?
CONCEN--
!
YOU HAVE TO CONCEN-TRATE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!
FOR SHAME, SKULD!
HUH?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? DOES SHE THINK ONLY KIDS GET HEAT-STROKE...?
I'M NOT A KID, YOU KNOW!
WH-WHAT?!
OH ...?!

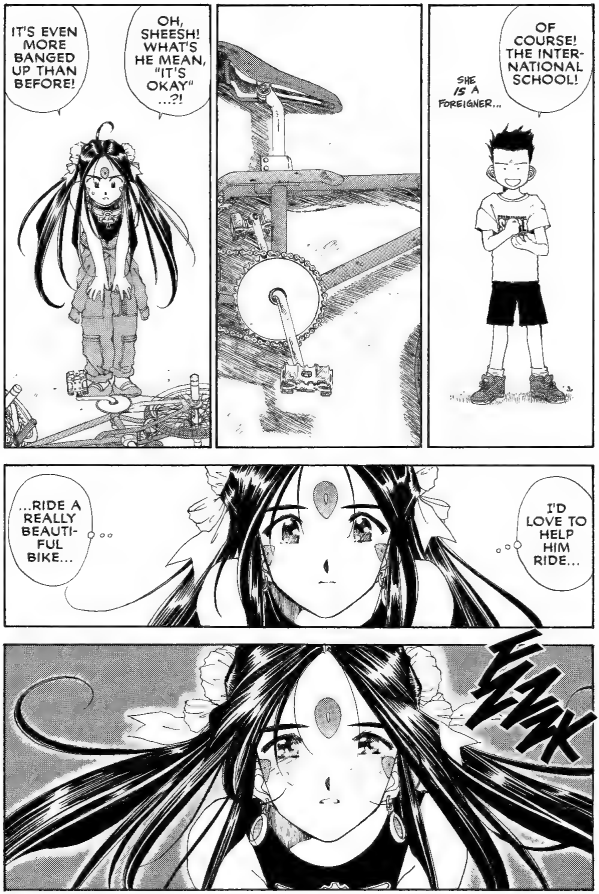
??
I DID IT!!
YAHOO! FINALLY!
R-REALLY...? THAT'S, uh, GREAT.
?
?
I FINALLY DID IT!!
I DID IT, I DID IT, I DID IT!

HEE-HEE-HEE!
HEH!
WOW!
THAT'S SO COOL, SKULD! JUST A WHILE AGO YOU COULDN'T DO IT AT ALL.
A GODDESS'S POWER IS THE POWER OF LOVE FOR OTHERS.
THAT'S THE SOURCE.
AND I KNOW YOU'LL FEEL IT MORE AND MORE...

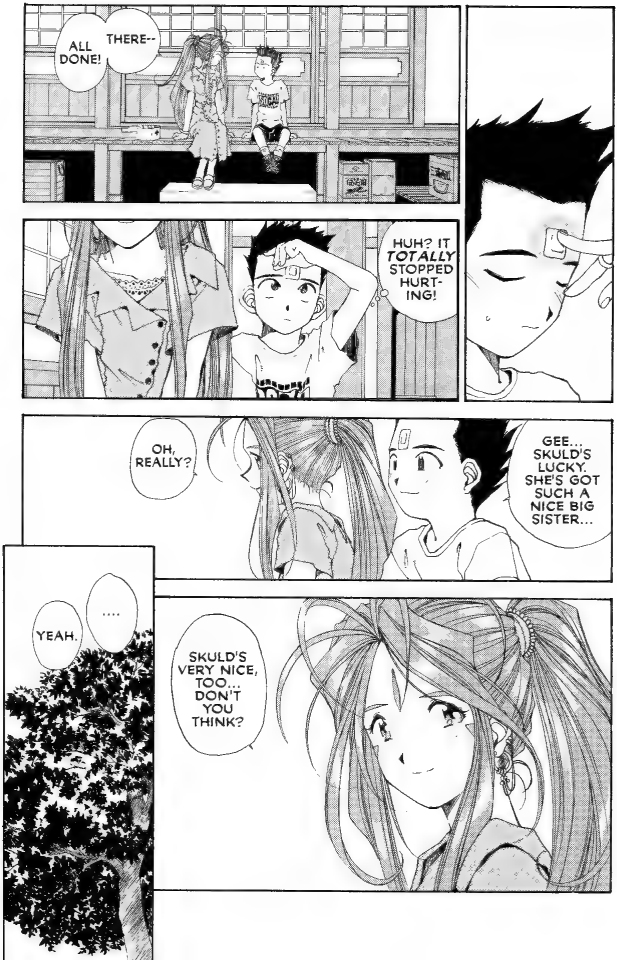

...DON'T EVER FORGET *LOVE*.
THAT'S RIGHT, SKULD... NO MATTER WHAT MAY HAPPEN...
"THAT PRECIOUS, *PRECIOUS* FEELING."
"WHAT YOU'RE FEELING NOW...

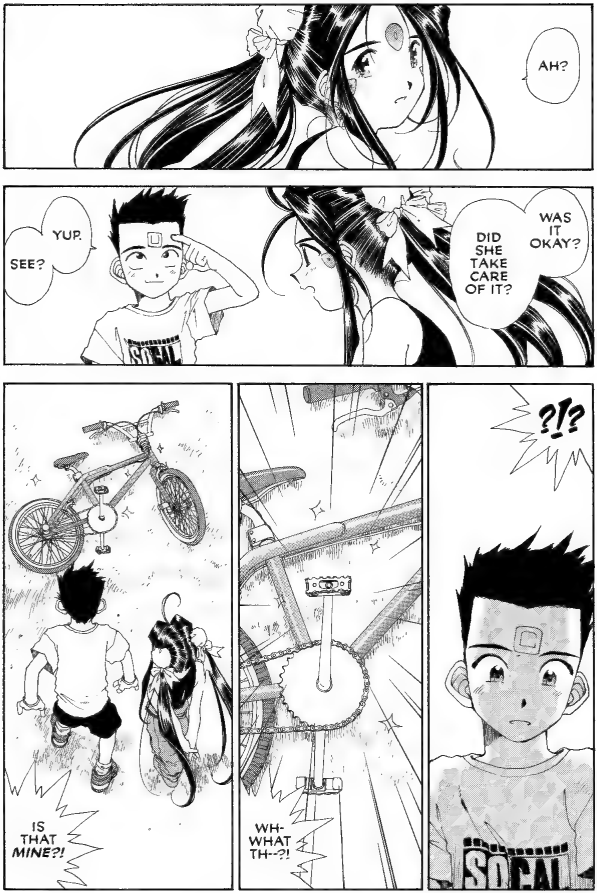
HEY... SKULD ...?
UM... WHAT SCHOOL DO YOU GO TO?
WHAT?
I DON'T.
HUH?
I MEAN, NOT AROUND HERE.
YAYE!
SWASSH
FWMP

NAW, IT'S OKAY, REALLY.
ANY DAMAGE ?!
NOT AGAIN ?!
OW.
"I MEAN THE BI-CYCLE."
RIGHT ...?
?!
WHICH MUST MEAN SHE'S...
"YES, MOM-MY."
GO HAVE BELL-DANDY LOOK AT IT!
SMARTY PANTS! ANYWAY, YOU SCRATCHED YOUR FOREHEAD!
SHE DOESN'T GO TO SCHOOL AROUND HERE...?

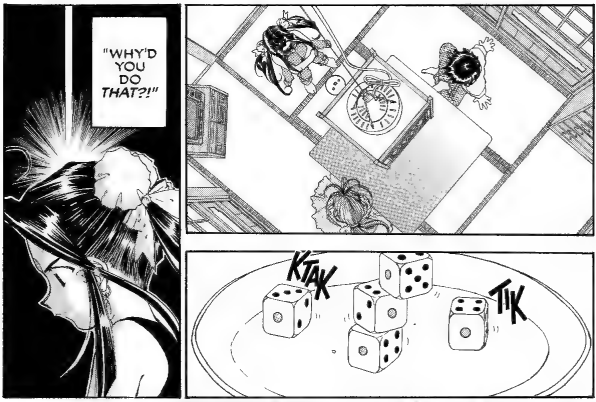

IT'S EVEN MORE BANGED UP THAN BEFORE!
OH, SHEESH! WHAT'S HE MEAN, "IT'S OKAY" ...?!
OF COURSE! THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL!
SHE IS A FOREIGNER...
...RIDE A REALLY BEAUTIFUL BIKE...
I'D LOVE TO HELP HIM RIDE...
SNNK

...JUST HOLD STILL A MOMENT.
NOW...

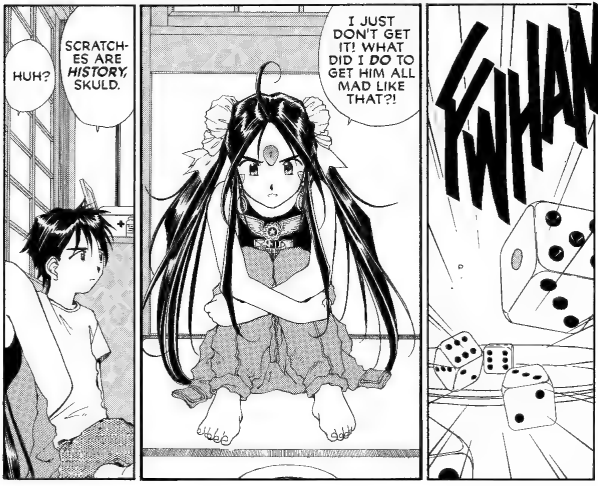

THERE--
ALL DONE!
HUH? IT *TOTALLY* STOPPED HURT-ING!
OH, REALLY?
GEE... SKULD'S LUCKY. SHE'S GOT SUCH A NICE BIG SISTER...
....
YEAH.
SKULD'S VERY NICE, TOO... DON'T YOU THINK?

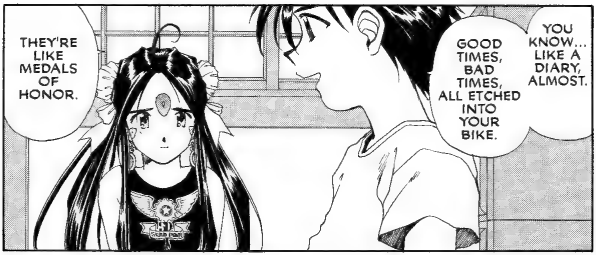

AH?
WAS IT OKAY?
DID SHE TAKE CARE OF IT?
YUP.
SEE?
?!?
WH-WHAT TH--?!
IS THAT *MINE?!*

WHY, SKULD? WHY'D YOU DO THAT?!
UH... YEAH.
DID... ...YOU DID THAT, SKULD ...?
SURE IS.
HUH?! B-BUT



SPECIAL TRAINING TO CONTROL HER POWER--SHE HAS TO LINE UP ALL THE NUMBERS ON THE DICE ▲



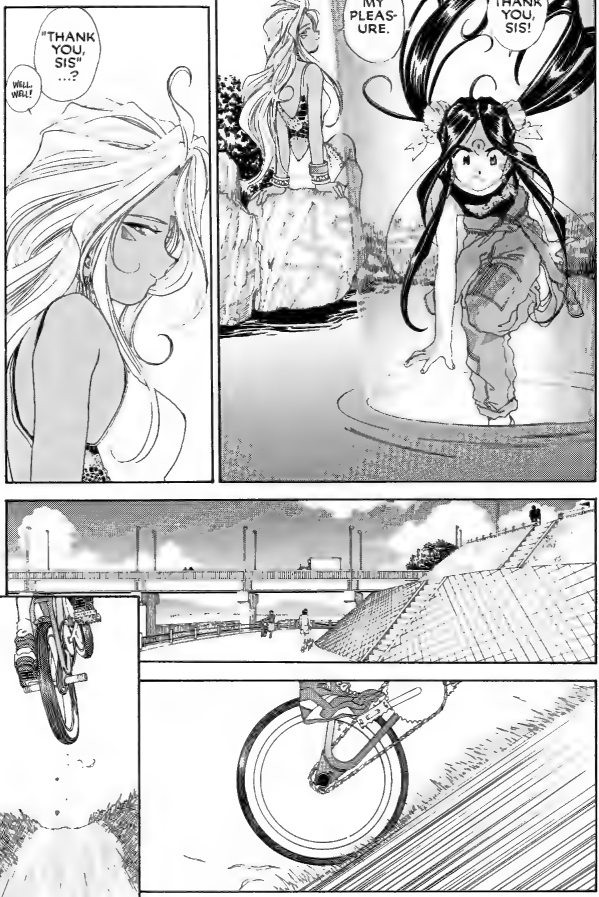

THEY'RE LIKE MEDALS OF HONOR.
GOOD TIMES, BAD TIMES, ALL ETCHED INTO YOUR BIKE.
YOU KNOW... LIKE A DIARY, ALMOST.

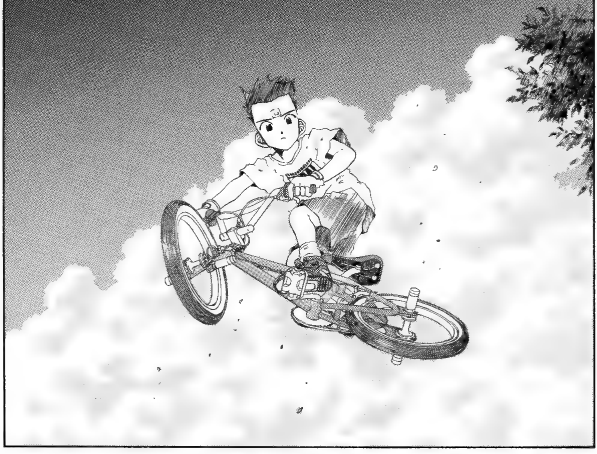
OH ...?
OH, *REALLY?*
...*REALLY IMPORTANT* MEMORIES.
FOR SENTARO, SOME OF THEM MUST HAVE BEEN...

SKULD ...?
I DON'T GET IT!!

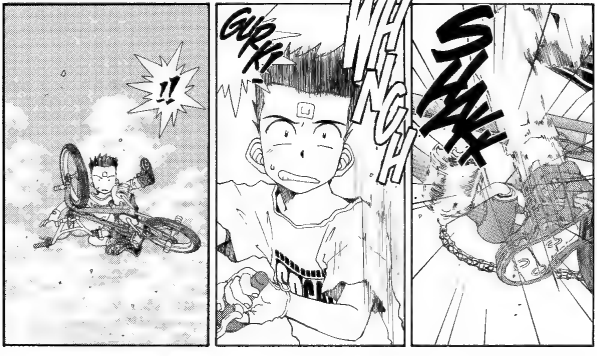
...OF CREATING A NEW WORLD TOGETHER.
AND THEN... I THINK... IT'S THE JOY...
I'M NOT FALLING IN LOVE WITH ANY-BODY!
FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOME-ONE MEANS--
REALLY ...? THEN LET ME TALK TO MYSELF.
GETTING TO LOVE SOMEONE MEANS THE JOY OF DISCOV-ERY.
NOT JUST THE THINGS YOU SHARE. BUT ALSO EACH OTHER'S NEW AND DIFFERENT FEELINGS.

HM?
AND IT'S JUST THE THING FOR THIS SORT OF SITUATION.
WELL, IN THAT CASE, I KNOW A MAGIC WORD.
I DID A BAD THING TO SENTARO.
I THINK I UNDERSTAND NOW.
I...
"YOU SHOULD HAVE THE POWER TO USE IT NOW, SKULD..."
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SENTARO, HE'S DOWN ON THE RIVERBANK.


"THANK YOU, SIS" ...?
WELL, WELL!
MY PLEAS-URE.
THANK YOU, SIS!



...!


!!
GUH!
WHACK
SMAK

?!
SENTARO
!!
UNNN
BAD!
BAD!
BAD!
VERY BAD!
GIVE ME MY FULL POWER! NOW!
PLEASE! I DON'T CARE IF I CAN NEVER USE IT AGAIN!

KANGG
SKRAGGH
thmp
?
?
?
SEMAB!

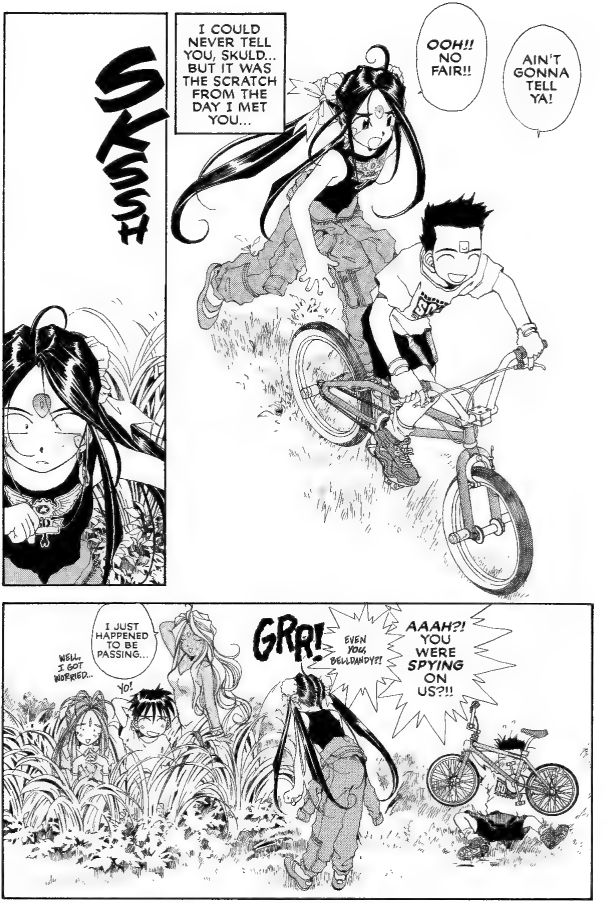
LOOKS LIKE IT'S REALLY BUSTED THIS TIME.
WELL... SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA.
NAW... PROBABLY NOT.
SKULD ...?
SHE COULDN'T HAVE ...?
ARE YOU HURT?!
I MEANT YOU!!
DUMMY!
ME ...?
HUH?!

UM... I WANNA...
....
AND... UM...
"YOU SHOULD HAVE THE POWER TO USE IT NOW, SKULD..."
....
....
I... I'M SORRY!
I D-DIDN'T REALIZE HOW IMPOR-TANT THEY WERE TO YOU.
EACH OF THOSE SCRATCHES... EVERY ONE...

WELL, UH... ACTUALLY... ONLY ONE OF 'EM MATTERED.
IT... ....

OH...? BUT THAT ONE WAS REALLY IMPORTANT, RIGHT?

UM... YEAH.
YOU WANNA KNOW WHY?
SENTARO ...? THAT REALLY IMPORTANT SCRATCH?
REALLY SCREWED UP, DIDN'T I?
ANYWAY, YOU FIXED MY BIKE FOR ME, AND NOW JUST LOOK AT IT!
AW, HEY, FORGET IT.


SKSSH
I COULD NEVER TELL YOU, SKULD.. BUT IT WAS THE SCRATCH FROM THE DAY I MET YOU...
OOH!! NO FAIR!!
AIN'T GONNA TELL YA!
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE PASSING..
WELL.. I GOT WORRIED..
YO!
GRR!
EVEN YOU, BELLDANDY?!
AAAH?! YOU WERE SPYING ON US?!!

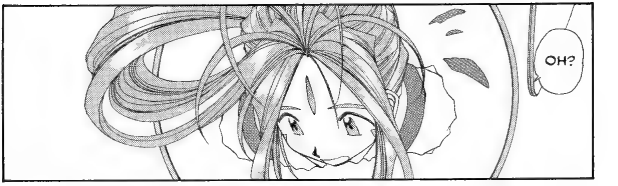
CHAPTER 75

The Campus Queen Doesn't Trust Goddesses?!

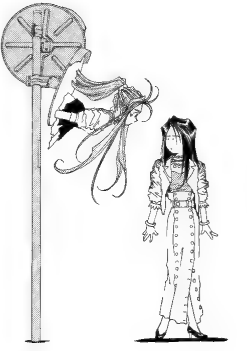
VRRMMBBBBBB
tmp

WHOAA!
THOSE ADORING GAZES ARE MY ENERGY SOURCE!
YES... YES! THIS IS IT!

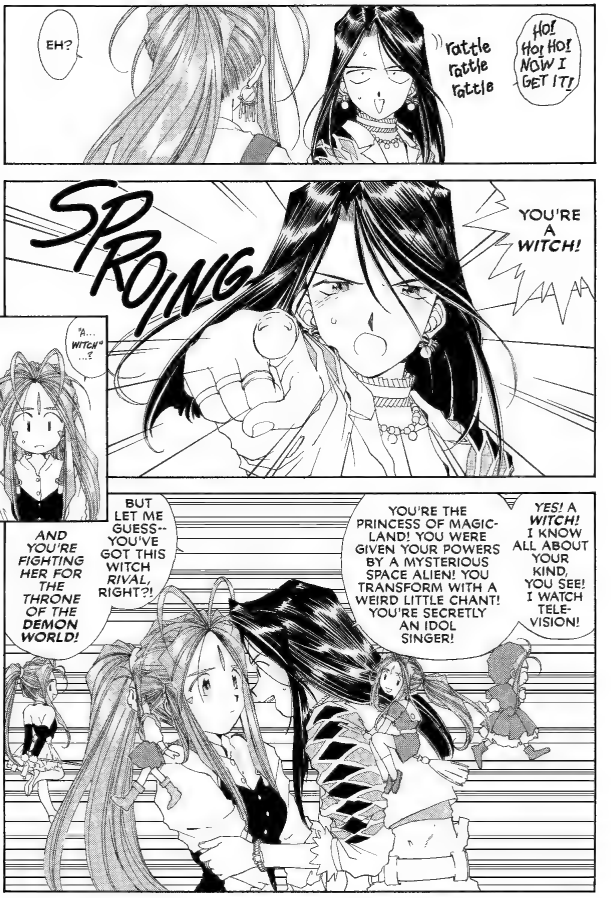
I MISS THE TENSION! LET'S SEE SOME SPARKS FLY!
...SHE HASN'T BEEN AROUND AT ALL.
I KNOW IT'S SUMMER BREAK, BUT STILL...
IT ALL FEELS KIND OF... POINT-LESS.
AND YET...
frishh
COME ON, BELL-DANDY! COME OUT AND FIGHT!
...THAT'S A FUNNY SOUND...
SAY...


OH?

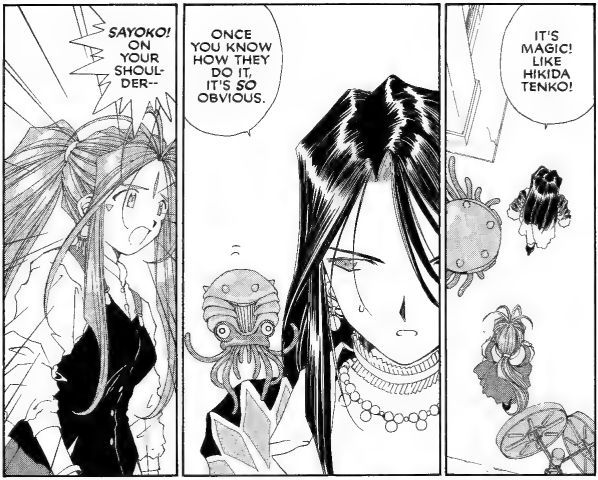
AH?



NO... NO... DON'T DO IT!
CAN'T FAINT. NOT NOW.
PULL YOUR-SELF TOGETH-ER. THAT'S RIGHT.
SAYOKO IS CALM. SAYOKO IS COOL.
THIS SORT OF THING'S HAP-PENED BEFORE... REMEM-BER?
fwapp
B-BUT I JUST SAW IT...I REALLY SAW IT!
ER... HELLO ...?
SAYO-KO...?

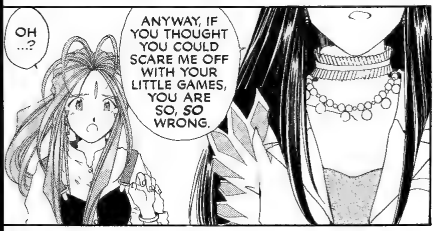

EH?
rattle rattle rattle
HO! HO! HO! NOW I GET IT!
SPROING
YOU'RE A WITCH!
AAAA
"A... WITCH"...?
AND YOU'RE FIGHTING HER FOR THE THRONE OF THE DEMON WORLD!
BUT LET ME GUESS-- YOU'VE GOT THIS WITCH RIVAL, RIGHT?!
YOU'RE THE PRINCESS OF MAGIC-LAND! YOU WERE GIVEN YOUR POWERS BY A MYSTERIOUS SPACE ALIEN! YOU TRANSFORM WITH A WEIRD LITTLE CHANT! YOU'RE SECRETLY AN IDOL SINGER!
YES! A WITCH! I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR KIND, YOU SEE! I WATCH TELE-VISION!

THAT'S THE *RULE* FOR YOU WITCHES! SO GET OUTTA HERE, OR IT'S THE *SPANISH INQUISITION* FOR YOU, *SERVANT OF HELL!*
HA! BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN *EXPOSED*, YOU CAN'T STAY HERE IN THE WORLD OF HUMANS, RIGHT?!
OH, I'M SO ASHAMED. EVEN IF IT WAS FOR ONLY A MOMENT THERE, I LOST MY SELF-CONTROL...
OF *COURSE* IT WAS A TRICK. IT *HAS* TO BE A TRICK!
SAYOKO ...?
...?
ER... ACTUALLY... I'M A *GODDESS*, NOT A WITCH.
HO HO. HO HO HO HO!
THAT'S THE BEST YOU COULD COME UP WITH? YOU'RE A *GODDESS?*


SAYOKO! ON YOUR SHOULDER--
ONCE YOU KNOW HOW THEY DO IT, IT'S SO OBVIOUS.
IT'S MAGIC! LIKE HIKIDA TENKO!

C'MON-- THAT'S THE OLDEST ONE IN THE BOOK!
WHAT? THERE'S NOTHING THERE.

DID I REALLY SEE IT...? AND WHAT WAS IT...?

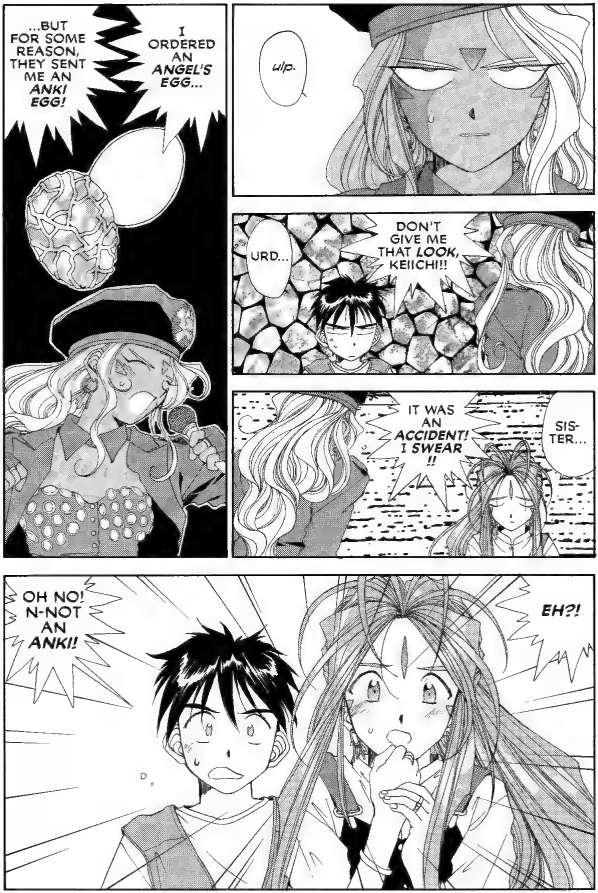

OH ...?
ANYWAY, IF YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD SCARE ME OFF WITH YOUR LITTLE GAMES, YOU ARE SO, SO WRONG.

AT
ALL
NONE OF US WOULD HAVE ANY PROBLEMS
WE'RE JUST HANGING OUT ON STREET CORNERS
I MEAN IF GODS AND GODDESSES
—

HEH...
YO!
ER... WELCOME TO URD'S MAGIC SHOW!
HEH, HEH ?
blink
NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF MY BUSINESS, BUT...
...AREN'T YOU A LITTLE OLD TO BE PLAYING DRESS-UP AND MAKE-BELIEVE...?
WAIT A SEC-- I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS NOW!
OOPS!
...?

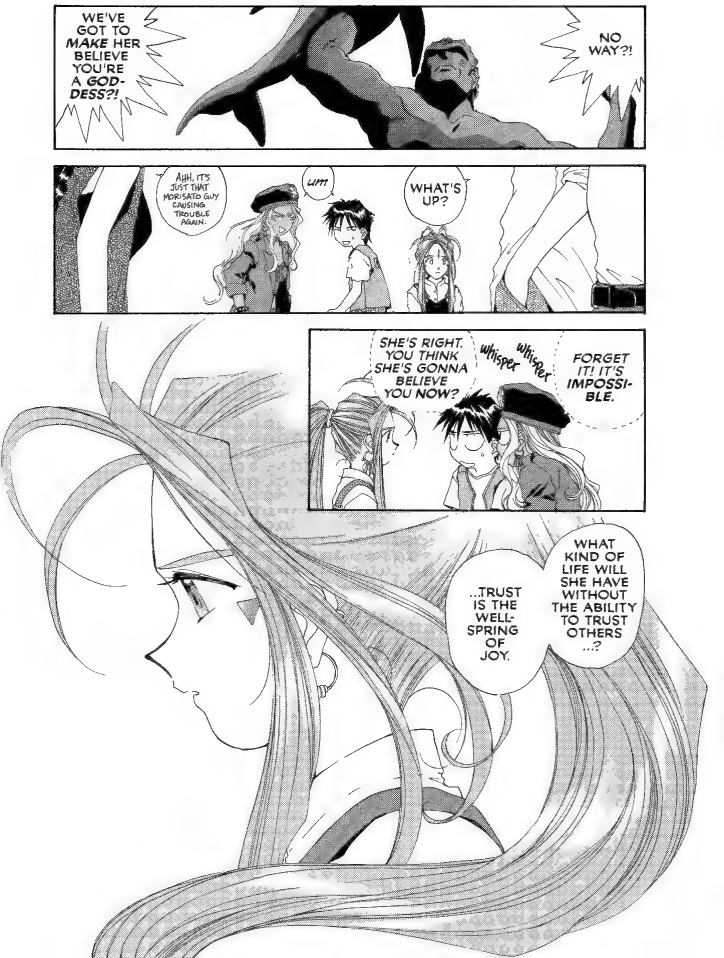
SAYOKO SAW YOU DO IT?!
WHAT?!
SLAP
SO, THAT'S GOOD, RIGHT? DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'LL CAUSE A RUCKUS.
HUH. I GUESS SHE WOULDN'T.
I MEAN, THERE WAS THAT OTHER TIME...
WELL, YES...BUT IT WAS AS IF SHE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT.
YES, AND YET...I'M A LITTLE CONCERNED.

HEY.
YOU TWO GOT A SEC?!
I'VE GOT TO CATCH THE LITTLE RASCAL *QUICK*, OR ELSE...!
YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO SEE SOME SORT OF *WEIRD CRITTER* FLOATING AROUND HERE?
AAG H!
YES, JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO. IT LANDED ON SAYOKO'S SHOULDER AND--
YOU SAW IT?!
OH ...?!
IN THAT CASE--
WELL, UH...
...IT SORTA LOOKS LIKE *THIS*...
WEIRD LIKE HOW?

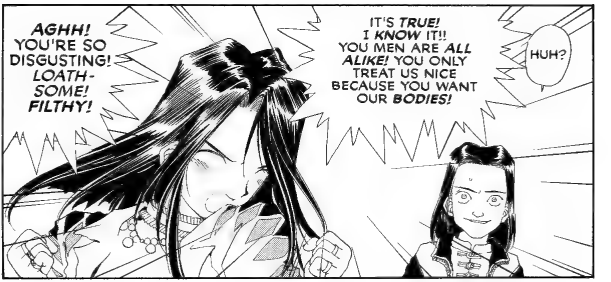

...BUT FOR SOME REASON, THEY SENT ME AN ANKI EGG!
I ORDERED AN ANGEL'S EGG...
u/p.
URD...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK, KEIICHI!!
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I SWEAR !!
SIS-TER...
OH NO! N-NOT AN ANKI!
EH?!

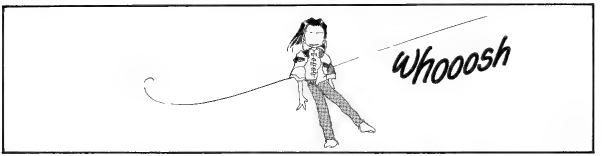
...WHAT'S AN ANKI?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE IT...
IT'S A TENTACLED DEMON THAT GETS ITS ENERGY BY DEVOURING A PERSON'S ABILITY TO TRUST AND BELIEVE.
NO WAY!
HMPH! WHOLE DAMN WORLD'S FULL OF LIARS!!
...SHE LOST HER ABILITY TO BELIEVE IN ANY-THING!
...AS SOON AS IT ATTACHED ITSELF TO POOR SAYOKO...
URD!!
...BUT AS IT SUCKS UP ALL HER TRUST, IT'LL GROW AND GROW... UNTIL IT CRUSHES HER!
AND IF THAT WAS ALL, IT'D BE BAD ENOUGH...

WHY ON EARTH DID YOU *ORDER* SUCH A DANGER-OUS THING?!
I *DIDN'T!* THEY'RE SPELLED *VERY SIMILAR-LY!*
...SHE *DIES.*
IT'S TOUGH. IF WE DON'T DO IT RIGHT...
YOU GOTTA GET IT *OFF* OF HER!
SO IF WE CAN GET HER TO *BELIEVE* THE THING SHE FIRST DOUBTED, *THEN* WE CAN REMOVE THE NASTY LITTLE CREATURE.
ANYWAY, AN ANKI CAN ONLY ATTACH WHEN SOME-ONE'S HEART IS *ALREADY* IN DOUBT.
IT'S WHAT THEY'RE ATTRACTED TO.
THEN... WHEN SHE SAW ME...


WE'VE GOT TO MAKE HER BELIEVE YOU'RE A GOD-DESS?!
NO WAY?!
AHH, IT'S JUST THAT MORISATO GUY CAUSING TROUBLE AGAIN.
HM?
WHAT'S UP?
SHE'S RIGHT. YOU THINK SHE'S GONNA BELIEVE YOU NOW?
whisper whisper
FORGET IT! IT'S IMPOSSI-BLE.
...TRUST IS THE WELL-SPRING OF JOY.
WHAT KIND OF LIFE WILL SHE HAVE WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO TRUST OTHERS ...?

AH, THE LOVELY MISS SAYOKO!
MAN... I FEEL SO...SO HEAVY TODAY...
"PLEASE, SAYOKO... BELIEVE IN YOUR-SELF!"
WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME FOR DINNER TODAY AT LE SPA VERTE?
blink
JUST WHAT KIND OF LEWD, DISGUSTING INTENTIONS DO YOU HAVE?
YOU.

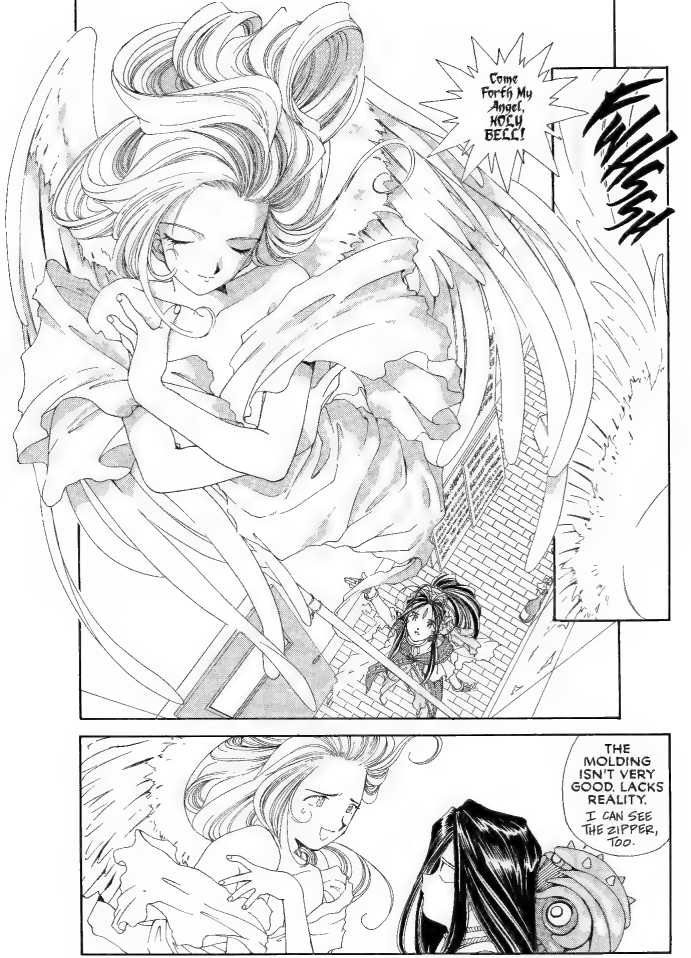

AGHH! YOU'RE SO DISGUSTING! LOATH-SOME! FILTHY!
IT'S TRUE! I KNOW IT!! YOU MEN ARE ALL ALIKE! YOU ONLY TREAT US NICE BECAUSE YOU WANT OUR BODIES!
HUH?


Whoooosh

NO, NO, NO.
...?
YOU'RE PLANNING TO KIDNAP ME, AREN'T YOU? YEP.
SAYOKO!
SAYOKO?
Whoooosh
ER... WOULD YOU MIND COMING WITH US A MINUTE?

NOT GOING TO SELL MY ORGANS? WHAT ABOUT ME? SLAVERY?
LOOK, REALLY-- DON'T WORRY. COME WITH US.
NOT THAT EITHER !!
THAT'S JUST AN URBAN LEGEND, YOU KNOW...
I KNEW IT! YOU'RE GOING TO KNOCK ME OUT AND REMOVE ONE OF MY KIDNEYS AND SELL IT TO ORGAN TRADERS!! HOW HORRIBLE!!
...NOW, PLEASE WATCH CAREFULLY.
SAYOKO ...?
FUWK
SHAAK

hmph.
I AM A GOD-DESS.
IT'S TRUE.
WHAT ARE YOU BLUSH-ING ABOUT ...?
VERY WELL! IN THAT CASE--
OH, NO! IT'S GROWW-ING!
ARGH... I KNEW IT!
QUITE THE QUICK-CHANGE ARTIST, ANY-WAY.
SLRBB
SLRBB
SO ...?


Come Forth My Angel, HOLY BELL!
KWHOOSH
THE MOLDING ISN'T VERY GOOD. LACKS REALITY.
I CAN SEE THE ZIPPER, TOO.

LACKS
REALITY
WAAH!
WE GOTTA TRY SOMETHING *REALLY FLASHY!*
I FIGURED THAT SORT OF STUFF WOULDN'T WORK.
NOW WHAT SHOULD WE DO? IT'S *STILL* GROWING!
sirsh sirsh
WHOOOSH

THIS IS A JOB FOR... SUPERURD!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF... THIS?!
URD! IT'S JUST GETTING BIGGER!
SLRRRRBB!
SO YOU SAWED YOURSELF IN HALF-- BIG DEAL.
?
....

PLEASE!! TRUST ME!
SAYOKO!
HA! NOT THAT I WAS COUNTING ON YOU!
OOPS...I DIDN'T THINK THAT FAR AHEAD.
ABOUT WHAT ...?
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT ME! I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU!
LATER.
OH, YEAH?! AND WHAT GOOD DID YOU DO, HUH, URD?!

HEY, SAYOKO!
GRRRR... EVERYONE IN THE WORLD IS FULL OF LIES. LIES!!
YOU'RE FAKE.
HUH?
MY LADY SEEMS IN A TERRIBLE MOOD...
WHAT'S WRONG?
HE'S A SELFISH, NARCISSISTIC, ARROGANT CREEP.
gasp!
THE TOSHIYUKI AOSHIMA I KNOW WOULD NEVER WORRY ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON.
whoooosh
THAT'S TRUE, BUT STILL IT HURTS.

STOP THAT!
SAYO-KO!
OW!
yank
OW OW YEOW!
WELL, COME ON! TAKE OFF THAT CHEESY MASK AND SHOW ME YOUR REAL FACE, IMPOSTOR!
HUH?
NOW I KNOW YOUR LITTLE GAME.
HMPH!
...PROVES I'M NOT THIS "SAYOKO" PERSON AT ALL!
THE FACT THAT YOU CALL ME "SAYOKO"...

SAYOKO, LISTEN TO ME--
I SEE IT ALL, NOW!
YOU DON'T REALLY EXIST, EITHER!
AN ILLUSION TO TRICK ME!
THE WHOLE WORLD IS A LIE!

SAYOKO! DON'T!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
SAYO-KO? WHERE ARE YOU GO--
AAAH!
THAP
AND IF ALL THAT'S TRUE...THEN I DON'T EXIST, EITHER!!

...OH?

BUT... BUT YOU'RE...
...?
...BELL-DANDY ...?
SAYOKO... YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE I'M A GODDESS.
BUT DON'T STOP BELIEVING IN YOURSELF.
THAT BELIEF...
...IS WHAT MAKES YOU WHO YOU ARE.
B-BELL-DANDY...
YOU REALLY ARE...
FZZK
FZZK
FZZK

URD'S GONNA MAKE YOU PAY FOR THAT!
YOU REALLY PUT US THROUGH THE WRINGER, BUDDY.
GOTCHA!

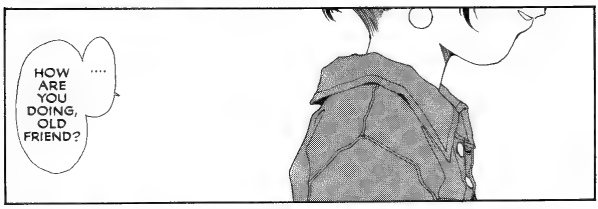
SAYOKO ...?
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T TELL ANYONE.
I MEAN... WHO WOULD BELIEVE IT?
SO YOU REALLY *AREN'T* HUMAN, ARE YOU...?
...
SAYO-KO...
Whooosh
UM...
I ALWAYS *KNEW* YOU WERE A *WITCH*.
Whooosh

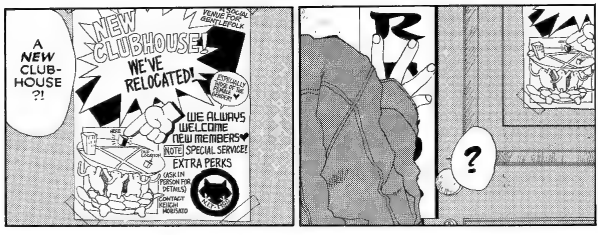
CHAPTER 76

First Director of the Motor Club

SO. WHAT WE GONNA DO?
THIS IS BAD. VERY BAD.
DUNNO.
MOTOR CLUB
MOTOR CLUB
AFTER ALL THIS TIME ...?
WHY WOULD SHE COME BACK NOW?

YO!
IT'S BEEN AGES.
MOTOR CLUB


....
HOW ARE YOU DOING, OLD FRIEND?


A NEW CLUB-HOUSE ?!
NEW CLUBHOUSE!
WE'VE RELOCATED!
WE ALWAYS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS♥
NOTE: SPECIAL SERVICE!
EXTRA PERKS
ASK IN PERSON FOR DETAILS
CONTACT REACH MODIFIED
?

WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO MOVE THE CLUB ?!
ALL RIGHT, TAMIYA AND OTAKI!!
WHAM
NIT MCC
...

UH... ER...
THAT'S RIGHT... THEY GRADUATED, DIDN'T THEY.
OOPS.
ヨシムラ
snack
IT... IT'S... Lovely!!
OH!
HEH... WELL, THAT'S WHAT WE TOLD THE GRANT COMMITTEE, ANYWAY!
OH, YEAH?
ahem. WELL, YOU SEE... OUR INTENT IS TO "EXPLORE THE SMALLEST FEASIBLE INTERNAL COMBUSTION PERSONAL PROPULSION SYSTEM."
THIS?
IT'S NOT RC, ACTUALLY... WE'RE GOING TO RIDE IT.
WHAT A SUPERB RC MOTOR-CYCLE!

ACTUALLY, WE JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN TO SEE IF A PERSON *COULD* RIDE ON THE KIND OF BIKE THAT TAKES A RADIO-CONTROLLED ENGINE...
....
ƷmmphɛƷ
ƷmnfɛƷ
SNORT!
HAW HAW HAW HAW HAW!
S-SO *SIMPLE*? JUST LIKE *THAT*?!
OH *GAWD*! I'M *DYIN'*! *HAW HAW* ƷkoffɛƷ ƷkoffɛƷ

IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THIS REASON--
YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S *THAT SIMPLE.*
--"*BE-CAUSE IT'S FUN*"?
NOW, *THAT*...
...IS A GOOD ENOUGH REASON...
..TO DO *ANY-THING.*
I DIDN'T.. I MEAN, I WASN'T LAUGHING AT *YOU.*
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY.
....
...I KNEW SOMEONE ELSE WHO SAID THE EXACT SAME THING YOU DID.
IT'S JUST, ONCE UPON A TIME...

I LIKE THE *FIRE* IN YOUR EYES.
I *LIKE* YOU, BOY.
...I'M THE CLUB DIRECTOR... KEIICHI MORISATO.
I...
WHAT'S YOUR *NAME?*
WHAT DO YOU *DO* AT THE N.I.T. MOTOR CLUB?
RIGHT, THEN.
YOU, HUH ...?
I SEE.

JUST A LITTLE *TEST*... OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
"WHY," YOU ASK?
??
WH-*WHY?*
WILL YOU RACE ME WHEN IT'S DONE?
THINK I'LL MAKE ONE OF THESE, TOO.
I THINK THAT WOULD BE *WONDER-FUL.*
"TEST"...? WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU GOT TO--
...I'M SURE IT WOULD BE MORE FUN TO HAVE *TWO!*
INSTEAD OF JUST ONE BIKE AND ONE DESIGN...

DIDN'T YOU SAY "BECAUSE IT'S FUN"...
...IS A GOOD ENOUGH REASON TO DO ANY-THING ...?
WELL...
YEAH.
CAN'T SAY "NO" TO THAT SMILE...
HA HA HA HA!
I LOVE IT! YOU GUYS ARE GREAT!
IT MAKES ME WANT TO RACE YOU EVEN MORE.

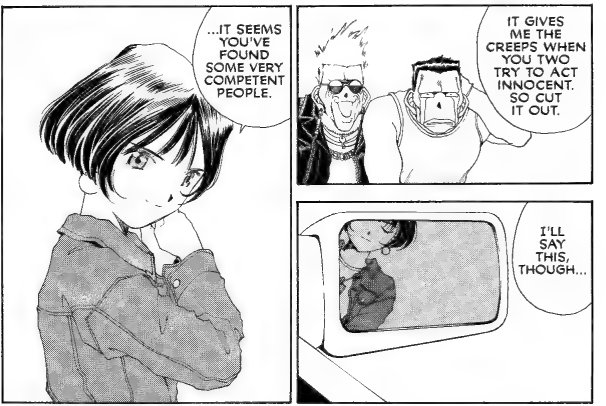
NICE TO MEET Y'ALL.
CHIHIRO FUJIMI.
FORMER N.I.T. MOTOR CLUB DIRECTOR...
AND SO WE SHALL-- TWO DAYS FROM NOW.
T-TWO DAYS ?!
LOOK-- WHO ARE YOU?
UH...
THAT DOESN'T WORK FOR YOU...?
SORRY. I DIDN'T SAY, DID I?
OH, RIGHT.
WHAAAT ?!

ACCORD-ING TO THE OFFICIAL HISTORY...
MISS FUJIMI TOOK THE ENFEEBLED AND USELESS NEKOMI TECH AUTOMOBILE FAN CLUB UNDER HER CONTROL...
...AND SWIFTLY RESTRUCTURED IT INTO THE EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION WE NOW KNOW AS THE N.I.T. MOTOR CLUB...
..THUS BE-COMING ITS EFFECTIVE FOUNDER AND FIRST DIRECTOR.
B-BOSS... YOU REALLY THINK WE STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HER...?
WHO KNOWS?
GACK! WE'RE GOING UP AGAINST A REAL PRO?!
..THAT SINCE GRADUATION SHE'S BEEN ON THE RACING TEAM OF A LEADING MOTORCYCLE MANUFAC-TURER...
..IT SAYS HERE...
IT'S JUST...
...

GOING UP AGAINST THE FOUNDER AND FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE CLUB... YEAH.
...I REALLY FEEL LIKE RACING WITH HER NOW.
I'LL BAKE UP MY SPECIAL TRIPLE-LAYER CAKE!
CAKE!
YAHOO!
IN THAT CASE, LET'S PLAN FOR A BIG CELEBRATION FOR IF WE WIN!
A TEST, SHE SAID.

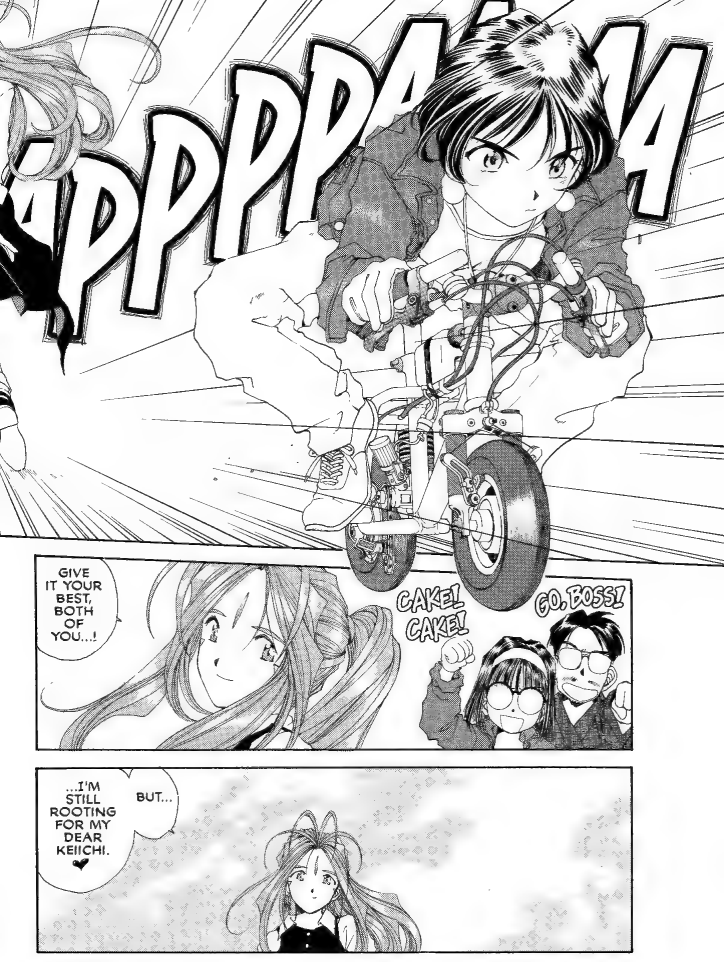
KLIK
VREEEEE
CHECKING IF I'M QUALIFIED TO LEAD THE CLUB, PERHAPS ...?
VRMBB
VRMMMMMMMM
KRAUSER
KRAUSER
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE. COME ON OUT.
OKAY, TAMIYA... OTAKI.
....
....
KSH

YEAH, WE'VE BEEN LOOKIN' ALL OVER FOR YOU!
YOUSE GOT IT WRONG, MIZ DIRECTOR SIR, MA'AM.
"LOOKING ALL OVER," HERE IN THESE BUSHES, HUH?
...


...IT SEEMS YOU'VE FOUND SOME VERY COMPETENT PEOPLE.
IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS WHEN YOU TWO TRY TO ACT INNOCENT. SO CUT IT OUT.
I'LL SAY THIS, THOUGH...

THANKS, GUYS. YOU DID GOOD.
LOOKS LIKE I'LL REALLY HAVE TO THROW MYSELF INTO THE FIGHT.
PRAISE! WORDS OF PRAISE FROM OUR GREAT LEADER!
...!
OH, RIGHT... ALMOST FORGOT.
ABOUT MOVING THE CLUB WITHOUT MY PERMIS-SION...?
I'LL LISTEN TO YOUR PATHETIC EXCUSES LATER.
AAH... SUCH KINDNESS AND BENEVOLENCE FROM THE LADY FUJIMI...!
THAP THAP
TWO DAYS LATER

BRUPP
SKREEK
BRAP BRAP BRAP
ALL RIGHT! TWO CIRCUITS AROUND THE CAMPUS!
WIN OR LOSE...
...BOTH RACERS, WATCH OUT FOR PEDESTRIANS!
READY
GO


PPPPPA
A
GIVE IT YOUR BEST, BOTH OF YOU...!
CAKE! CAKE!
GO, BOSS!
BUT...
...I'M STILL ROOTING FOR MY DEAR KEIICHI.

VRRRRAAA
NOT THE DAMN MOTOR CLUB AGAIN?!
WHAAAT?!
YO W!!
HOW'D SHE *TUNE* THAT THING?!
LOOK AT HER GO!

BRAAAP
VRAAA
FINISH
SMOOTH, BOY-- NICKED THE WALL!!
VRAAA
SHK

KE!CHI!!
!!
MAYBE I'M PUSHING A BIT TOO HARD ...?
YEEP! TOO CLOSE!
DO YOUR BEST !!
THANKS, BELL!
YEAH!
THE RACE HAS JUST BEGUN!!
HMM...IF THAT DOESN'T PUT SOME FIRE IN YOUR BELLY, NOTHING WILL, MY BOY!
WAIT A SEC... WASN'T SHE JUST AT THE STARTING LINE...?
HUH?

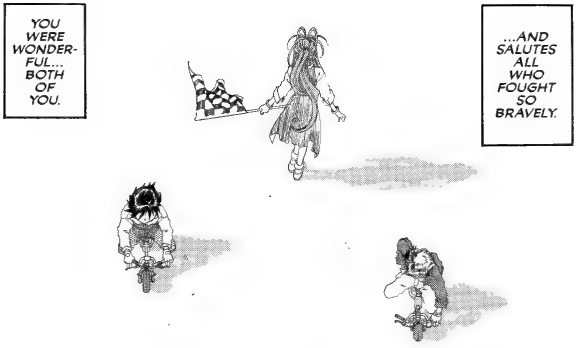
AND YET... AS THEY ENTERED THE SECOND CIRCUIT, BELLDANDY'S ENTHUSIASTIC CHEERLEADING WAS SO FAR ALL FOR NAUGHT.
DON'T GIVE UP!
WELL, I'M GONNA GIVE UP THINKING ABOUT IT!
HEY?! NO WAY!
GO, KEIICHI !!
BUT EVEN SO, KEIICHI DID NOT LOSE HOPE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT... DON'T PANIC...
...JUST KEEP UP THE PACE.
AND IF YOU'RE GETTING THAT MUCH POWER... SOONER OR LATER... YOU'RE GONNA BREAK DOWN!
...BETWEEN POWER AND ENDURANCE.
BUT TUNING IS A BALANCING ACT...
IT'S NOT AS IF I DIDN'T GUESS YOU'D TUNE YOUR ENGINE TO THE MAX.
KCHAK

RRG... HURRY UP AND BLOW, ALREADY !!
WELL, PROBABLY...
ABSOLUTELY!
HAH! GOTCHA!
!!
NO WAY!
HUH?
A SPARE ENGINE ...?!

ARGH! I'VE BEEN TRICKED! AN ENGINE CHANGE!
THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE RULES AGAINST IT...
COME ON, KID! NOW THE RACE REALLY BEGINS!
...BUT WHO'D HAVE DREAMED SHE COULD DO IT FAST ENOUGH TO MAKE IT WORTH-WHILE?

BRAKE!
NOW !!
THE LAST CORNER ALREADY ?!
GOAL
EH?

W-WHOA!! THE BOSS!
HE'S AHEAD !!
THE CHECKERED FLAG ANOINTS THE VICTOR...
DARN DARN DARN! I STAYED ON THE BRAKE TOO LONG!
YOU DID GOOD, KID, BUT...


YOU WERE WONDER-FUL... BOTH OF YOU.
...AND SALUTES ALL WHO FOUGHT SO BRAVELY.

WELL, MORI-SATO...

YOU GAVE ME SOME GOOD THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR A CHANGE.
THANKS.

"WAY BACK WHEN, I SPENT EVERY DAY COVERED IN OIL."
ALL KINDS OF THINGS...
"MY FRIENDS WHO WEREN'T INTO THIS STUFF WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME..."
CHIHIRO! WHY ARE YOU SPENDING ALL THIS TIME AND EFFORT ON THAT SILLY CLUB?
HEY, BECAUSE IT'S *FUN!*
"I GUESS I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR THOSE WORDS AGAIN."
"BECAUSE IT'S FUN."

THIS TEST WAS FOR *ME.*
YOU PASSED THAT TEST THE DAY I MET YOU.
TEST?
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHAT ABOUT THE TEST...?
OH, PUH-*LEASE!* DON'T BE SILLY.
YOU SAID THIS WAS A TEST. AM I OUT OF THE CLUB?
I'M GOING TO QUIT THE TEAM, AND START MAKING THE KIND OF BIKES *I* WANT TO MAKE.
AND THANKS TO YOU, I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
BUT JUST AS A WAY OF *HAVING FUN.*
NOT AS A WAY OF *WINNING.*

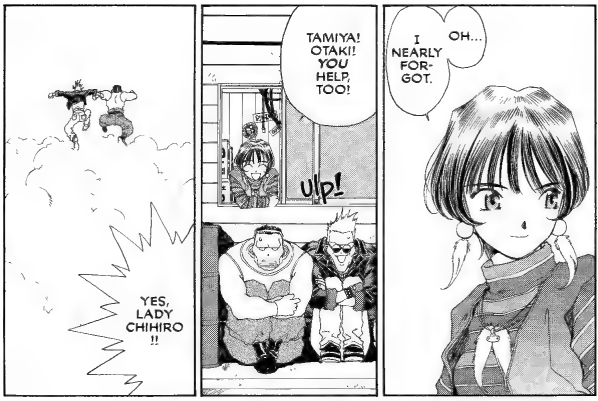
HUH?
YES... YES!
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO DO, TOO!
MAKE THE THINGS YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT ...?
?! HEY!
WHAT?
...SOMEHOW I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT.
WELL, KEIICHI...
ONE THING THAT HASN'T CHANGED... YOU'RE STILL A PAIR OF GREEDY SLOBS!!
GOD'S OUR CAKE...
UH?

CHAPTER 77

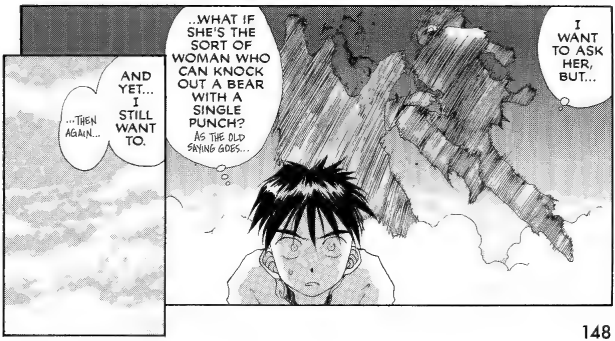
Let's Go Feminine!

COME ON, EVERY-BODY! TODAY WE'RE GONNA...
..CLEAN THE OLD CLUB-HOUSE!
WHAT'S WRONG?! WHY THE LONG FACES?
UM...
We're going to meet up at Okera-ya at 5:35! Please be there!
'CAUSE OF THE SHORT MONEY.
HUH ...?

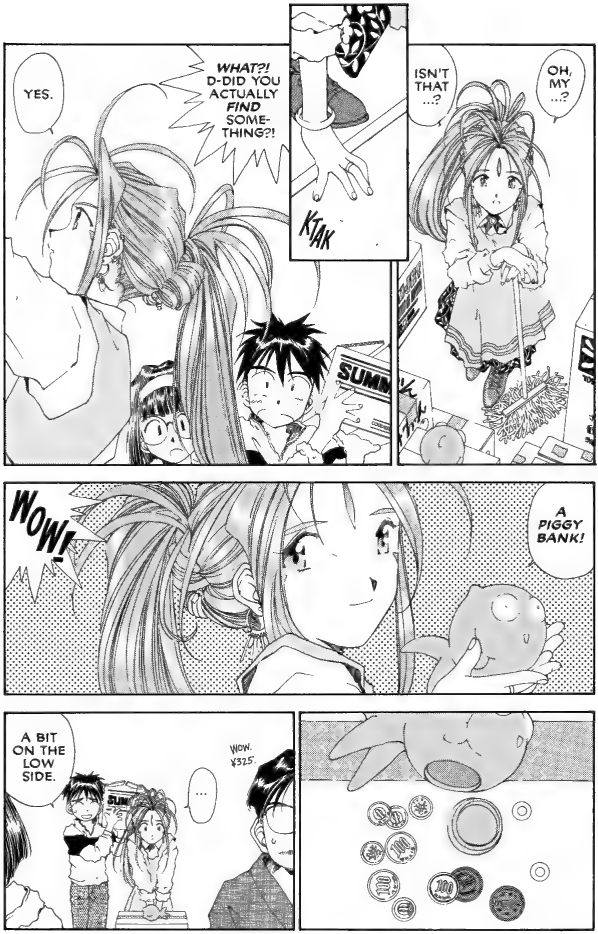
whoooooooooooo
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HEY-- ALL THE MORE REASON TO CLEAN UP!
..THERE COULD BE TREASURE!
MAY-BE... JUST MAY-BE...
BECAUSE, KIDDO, WHO KNOWS WHAT WE MIGHT FIND!
SIMPLE HEARTS, SIMPLE MINDS.


YES, LADY CHIHIRO !!
TAMIYA! OTAKI! YOU HELP, TOO!
UIP!
OH... I NEARLY FOR-GOT.

WHY ARE THOSE BIG LUGS SO AFRAID OF CHIHIRO?
HMM... I DON'T GET IT.
HEE HEE!


...THEN AGAIN...
AND YET... I STILL WANT TO.
..WHAT IF SHE'S THE SORT OF WOMAN WHO CAN KNOCK OUT A BEAR WITH A SINGLE PUNCH?
AS THE OLD SAYING GOES...
I WANT TO ASK HER, BUT...

KEIICHI, WATCH YOUR STEP, ALL RIGHT?
COME ON! FASTER, FASTER!
Moving
VALIANT
MAX
SURE, SURE.
sigh THERE'S NOTHING VALUABLE HERE AT ALL.
KR-1
million
EVERY SCRAP IS A PIECE OF A DREAM...
YOU THINK SO...? TO ME, EVERYTHING LOOKS SO WONDERFUL.


OH, MY ...?
ISN'T THAT ...?
KTAK
WHAT?! D-DID YOU ACTUALLY FIND SOME-THING?!
YES.
A PIGGY BANK!
WOW!
WOW. ¥325.
...
A BIT ON THE LOW SIDE.

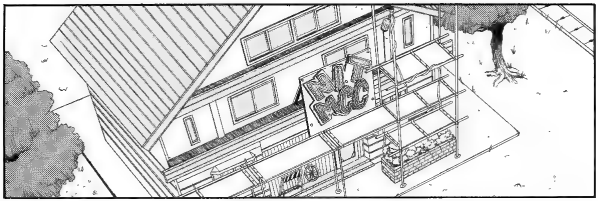
YAAA!
EPSAN
PAINTER
HMM... MAYBE CHIHIRO WAS JUST LEADING US ON?
CHAK
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!
STANDS
YEEE?
SKSSH
SPY
KTAK

S'OKAY. NO PROB.
owww.
KEIICHI ?!
WHOO
YAIEE! IT FIGURES!
STANDS IN STATE
poik
OH...!
HUH ...?
...A TREASURE MAP ...?!
H-HEY... IT LOOKS LIKE...

HEY... ISN'T THAT--
UHH ?!
BACK TO WORK.
YOU TWO.
WELL, UH, MAYBE, WE DON'T KNOW IT'S A TREASURE MAP...
SEE? YOU DID FIND SOME-THING GOOD!
HUP-HO! HUP-HO!
STANDS SPORTS INVENTORY

ALL RIGHT! IF THAT'S THE CASE, LET'S DECODE IT!
YEAH !!
HMM... THAT GIRL SAYS THE STRANGEST THINGS SOME-TIMES...
I CAN SENSE IT LEADS TO SOMETHING HIDDEN... SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
NO... SHE'S RIGHT.

RIGHT! SO-- WHERE IS IT?!
YEAH!! SO WE JUS' GOTTA GO GEDDIT *FOIST!*
HEY, WE HID IT THERE OUR-SELVES, RIGHT?
DIS... DIS IS *BAD.*
YOU, EITHER ...?
YUH DON' REMEM-BUH ...?
...



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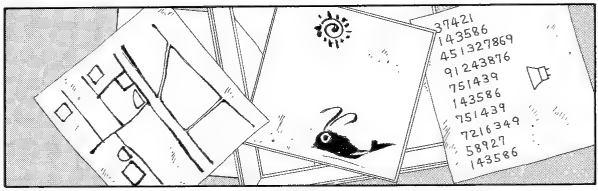
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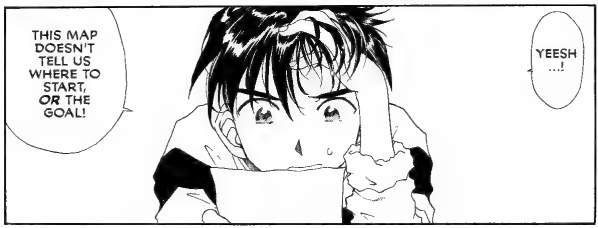
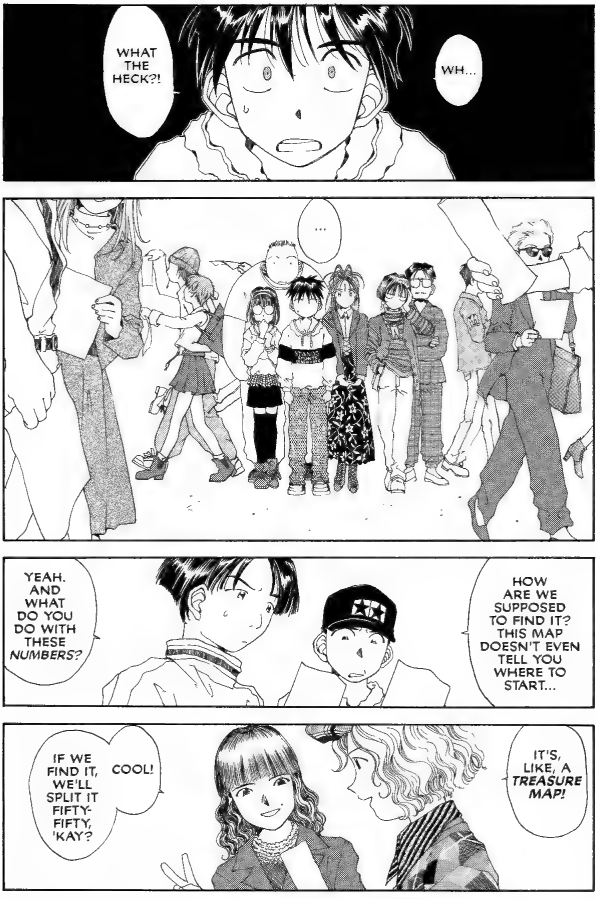

THIS MAP DOESN'T TELL US WHERE TO START, OR THE GOAL!
YEESH ...!

..WHAT ABOUT THE NEXT FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE MILLION?
C'MON! EVEN IF YOU COULD WALK THE FIRST THIRTY THOUSAND STEPS...
SAY! MAYBE IT'S THE NUMBER OF STEPS TO TAKE?
ALL THESE NUM-BERS...
NOT REALLY, BUT... LET'S ADD THEM UP.
DID YOU FIND ANY-THING, SORA?
OH YEAH, RIGHT
FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT...
ONE HUNDRED FORTY-THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX, PLUS...
THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE, PLUS...
LET'S SEE...
D-DON'T TELL ME--?!
HEY!
WHAT? WHAT ?!

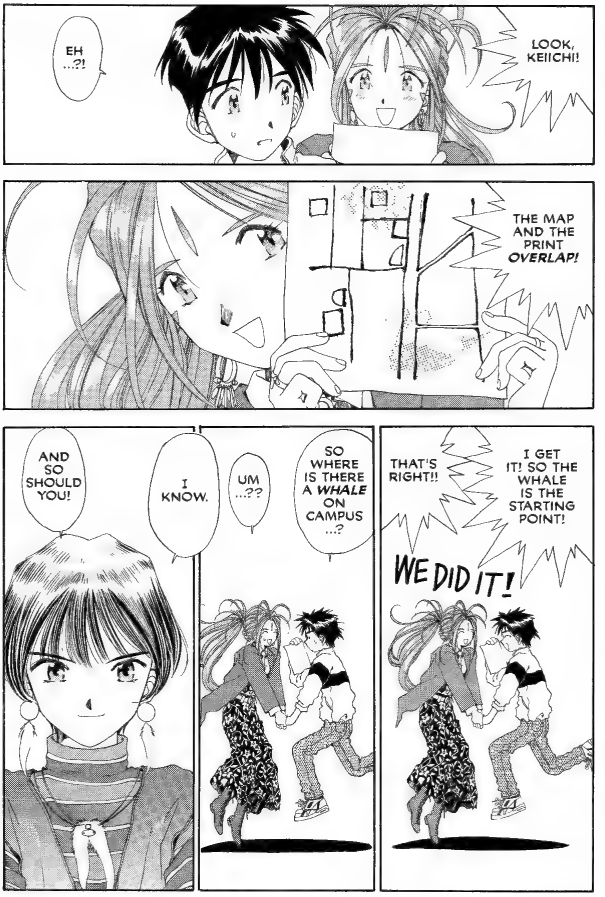
HMM... IT *THAT* CASE, IT MEANS...
JUST EIGHT DIGITS...
THIS CALCULATOR DOESN'T GO THAT HIGH.
OOOOOOOOOH!
THE TOTAL IS FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND AND SEVENTY-EIGHT.
SAY...WHY NOT JUST LOOK FOR A MATCH ON THE CAMPUS MAP...?
GOOD IDEA!
...I *REALLY* DON'T UNDER-STAND.
OH, SORA... NOT AGAIN!


WHAT THE HECK?!
WH...
...
YEAH. AND WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THESE *NUMBERS?*
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND IT? THIS MAP DOESN'T EVEN TELL YOU WHERE TO START...
IF WE FIND IT, WE'LL SPLIT IT FIFTY-FIFTY, 'KAY?
COOL!
IT'S, LIKE, A *TREASURE MAP!*

T'ANKS A HEAP, PAL!
WELL, I GUESS.. FOR 500 YEN..
STEP RIGHT UP!
500 YEN A COPY!
HOW DID *THIS* HAPPEN?
STANK
YEAH... WHO'D A' THOUGHT WE'D *FORGET?*
GEEZ... EVEN *IF* WE DONE IT WHEN WE WAS DRUNK...
OUR "EVIL MASTER PLAN" IS *PERFECT!*
COOL. WE'RE LIKE THE BAD GUYS IN A SAMURAI MOVIE...
PLUS, DUH SALES MONEY IS ALL OURS, HEH, HEH!
...AND THEN WE TAKE IT BACK BEFORE THEY OPEN THE BOX.
IN ANY CASE, DIS WAY WE GETS SOMEONE ELSE TUH FIND IT...

I GOT NOTH-ING!
CLICK
YOU'RE LOSING IT, KIDDO.
NO WAY IT'S THAT'S HARD!
HOW ABOUT DIFFERENTIAL CRYPT-ANALYSIS? IF IT'S SYMMETRIC ALGO-RITHMS...
NO... NO... CALM DOWN...
NTT AGC
WHO EVEN SAID THE MAP SHOWS THIS CAMPUS?
BESIDES, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO FIND IT THAT EASILY, ANY-WAY.
WELL, UH... MAYBE NOT.
THEN... THEN WE CAN'T FIND IT, EITHER ...?
SH-SHE REALLY CAN PUNCH OUT A BEAR! TWO BEARS!
...LATER THEY SHALL REQUIRE... DISCIPLINE.
HMM... AS FOR TAMIYA AND OTAKI SELLING THOSE MAPS...

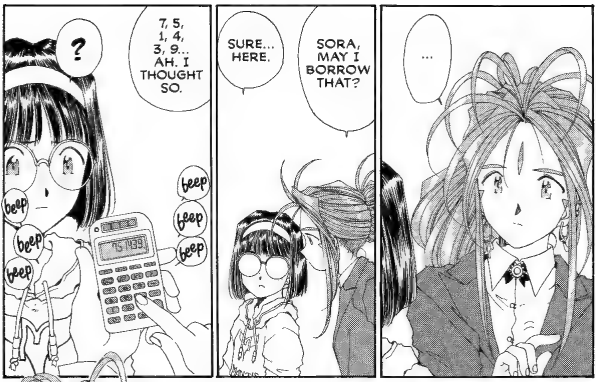
OH, VERY SUBTLE, SORA HASEGAWA!
OH, THAT ...?
..WHY ARE TAMIYA AND OTAKI SO AFRAID OF YOU?
BUT, SENIOR CHIHIRO...
MAMA
YES, MA'AM ?!
MY DEAR...
WHAT ?!
HUH?
THERE ARE MORE THINGS IN HEAVEN AND EARTH, HASEGAWA, THAN ARE DREAMT OF IN YOUR PHILOSOPHY.
OH ...?!
tak
tak

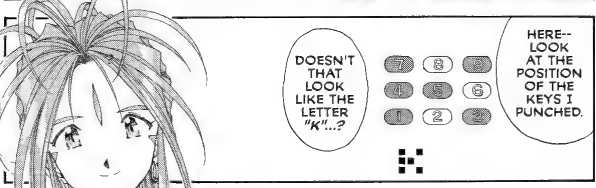

EH ...?!
LOOK, KEIICHI!
THE MAP AND THE PRINT OVERLAP!
SO WHERE IS THERE A WHALE ON CAMPUS ...?
UM ...??
I KNOW.
AND SO SHOULD YOU!
I GET IT! SO THE WHALE IS THE STARTING POINT!
THAT'S RIGHT!!
WE DID IT!

SEE?
GREAT! NOW THAT WE KNOW WHERE TO START... WE'RE HOME FREE!
GEEZ! HOW COULD I FORGET ?!

um...
SO, LIKE... WHERE IN THIS BUILDING?
HERE! THIS BUILD-ING!
THE...THE NUMBERS MUST TELL US THAT PART!
WHAT DO THEY SAY?
AH!
WHAT WHAT?
IN OTHER WORDS--
1 4 3 5 8 6
4 5 1 3 2 7 8 6 9
9 1 2 4 3 8 7 6
7 5 1 4 3 9
1 4 3 5 8 6
7 5 1 4 3 9
7 2 1 6 3 4 9
5 8 9 2 7
1 4 3 5 8
"751,439," TWICE.
WELL... "143,586" OCCURS THREE TIMES.
shock!
RRG! THAT'S MY LINE!
THESE SETS OF NUMBERS HAVE IDENTICAL MEANINGS IN THE CODE.

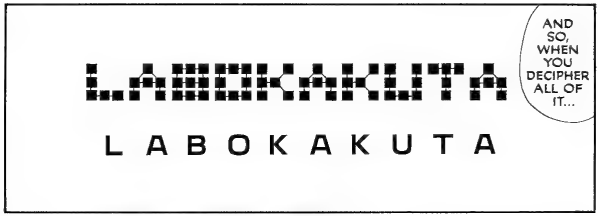
AH!
OF COURSE!
SMAK
I REMEMBER THIS FROM WHEN I WAS A KID!
LOOK AT THIS, MISTER MORI-SATO!
WHEN YOU PUT IN 7, 5, 1, 4, 3, 9...
AND THEN LOOK AT IT *UPSIDE DOWN*, THEY LOOK LIKE LETTERS! SEE?
SO HOW DO YOU READ IT?
ER... "GEH... HEE... ZLL"...? ???
IT DOESN'T MEAN A DARN THING!
indeed.
SORA! YOU'RE *INCREDI-BLE!*

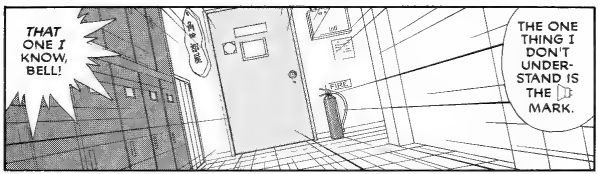

7, 5, 1, 4, 3, 9... AH. I THOUGHT SO.
?
beep
beep
beep
beep
beep
beep
SURE... HERE.
SORA, MAY I BORROW THAT?
...

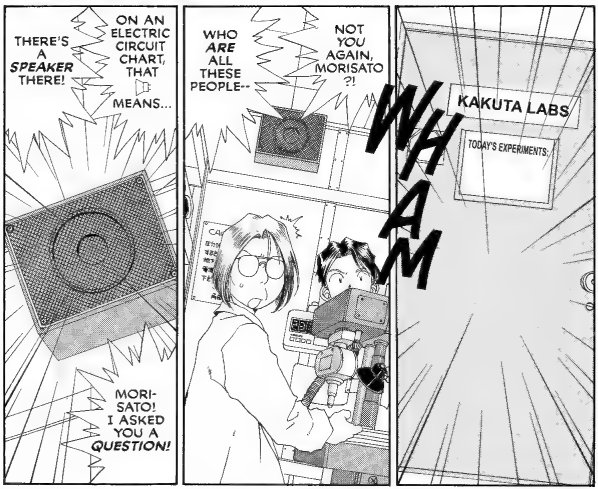

DOESN'T THAT LOOK LIKE THE LETTER "K"...?
HERE-- LOOK AT THE POSITION OF THE KEYS I PUNCHED.

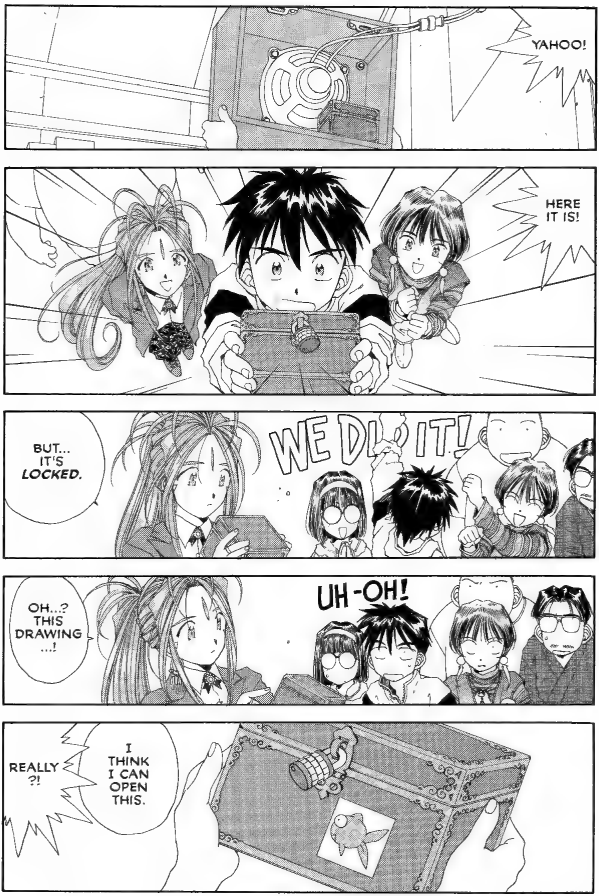
OHH !!

THAT MAKES AN "L".
3, 7, 4, 2, 1...
SO LET US START AGAIN, FROM THE TOP!

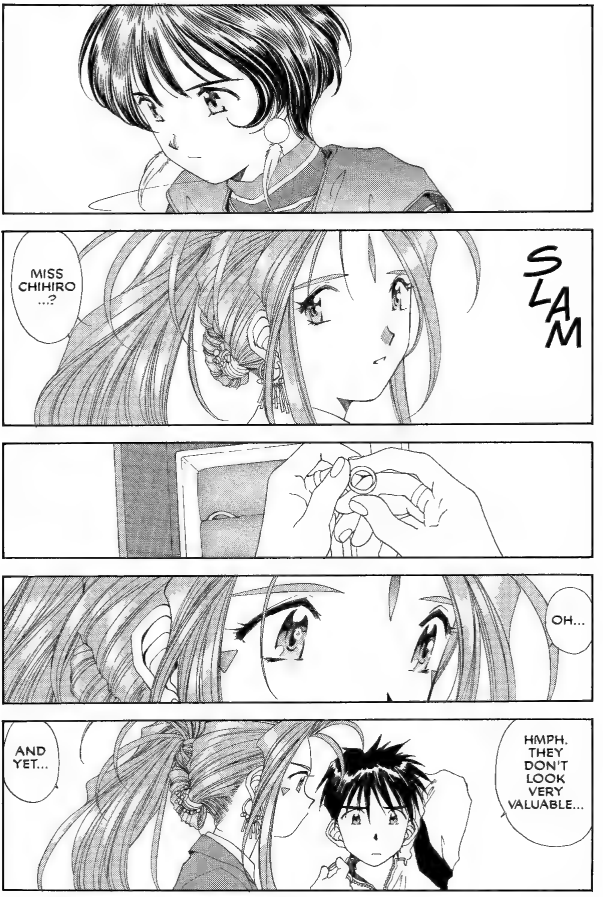

LABOKAKUTA
AND SO, WHEN YOU DECIPHER ALL OF IT...
LABOKAKUTA


THAT ONE I KNOW, BELL!
THE ONE THING I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS THE MARK.


THERE'S A SPEAKER THERE!
ON AN ELECTRIC CIRCUIT CHART, THAT MEANS...
MORISATO! I ASKED YOU A QUESTION!
WHO ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE--
NOT YOU AGAIN, MORISATO?!
WHAM
KAKUTA LABS
TODAY'S EXPERIMENTS:


YAHOO!
HERE IT IS!
BUT... IT'S *LOCKED.*
WE DID IT!
OH...? THIS DRAWING ...!
UH-OH!
REALLY ?!
I THINK I CAN OPEN THIS.

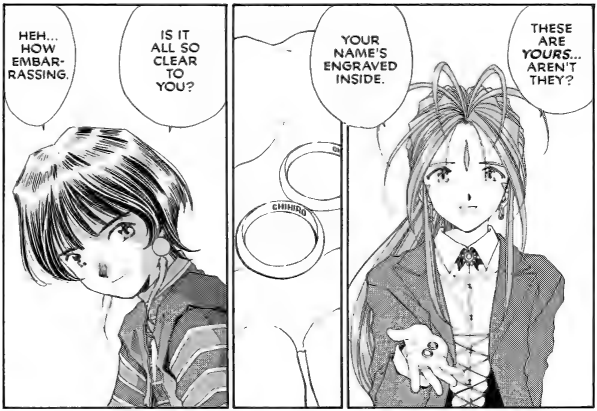
LEMME SEE!
crowd! crowd!
IT'S OPEN!
FIVE!
kchik
THREE... TWO...
....!
TWO... RINGS?


MISS CHIHIRO ...?
SLAM
OH...
HMPH. THEY DON'T LOOK VERY VALUABLE...
AND YET...

THEY GLOW
WITH *LOVE*

HUH?
KEIICHI THESE RINGS?
MAY I BORROW THEM?

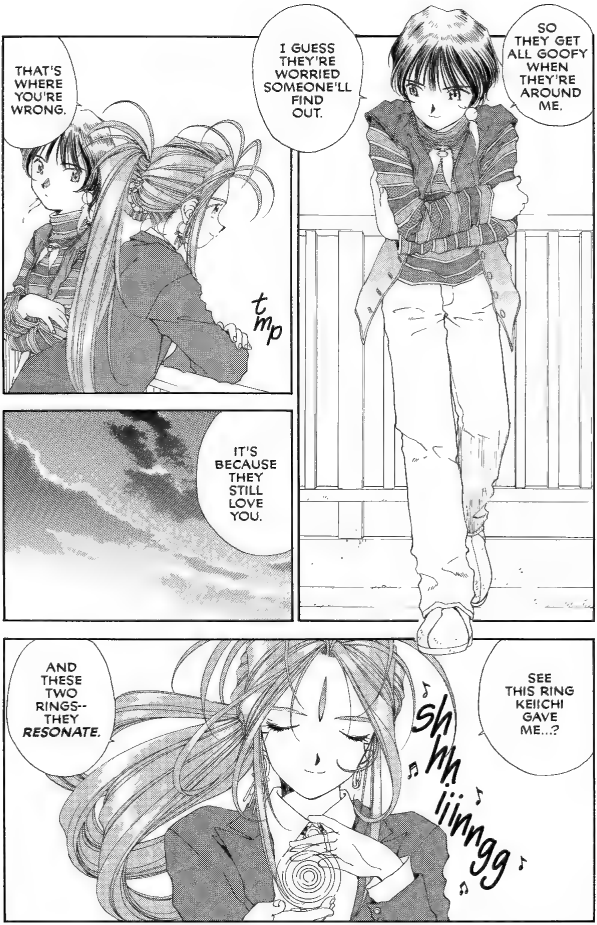
MISS CHIHIRO


HEH... HOW EMBAR-RASSING.
IS IT ALL SO CLEAR TO YOU?
YOUR NAME'S ENGRAVED INSIDE.
CHIHIRO
THESE ARE *YOURS*... AREN'T THEY?

THOSE RINGS... TWO DIFFERENT MEN GAVE THEM TO ME, SEE?

I COULDN'T DECIDE BETWEEN THEM.
BUT I'M SO CRUEL...
sigh

I SAID I'D DATE THE WINNER...
AND SO...?
EEEK!
...AND THEN I MADE THEM PLAY STRIP ROCK, SCISSORS, PAPER 'TIL THEY WERE BUCK NAKED!
I TOLD THEM THAT RATHER THAN DISRUPT THE CLUB'S HARMONY, I WOULD JUST...YOU KNOW.
...I CHOSE THE GOOD OF THE CLUB OVER EITHER OF THEIR LOVES.
BUT...
IT'S JUST THAT, IT'S WEIRD, YOU KNOW? EVEN NOW, THEY STILL WORRY ABOUT IT.
AND I DON'T REGRET IT...NOT ANY-MORE!

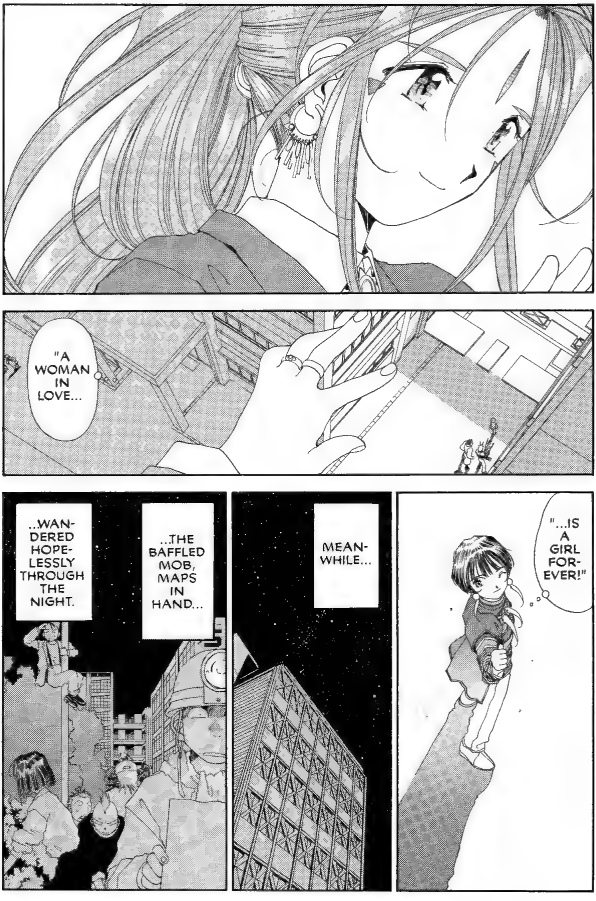

SO THEY GET ALL GOOFY WHEN THEY'RE AROUND ME.
I GUESS THEY'RE WORRIED SOMEONE'LL FIND OUT.
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG.
tmp
IT'S BECAUSE THEY STILL LOVE YOU.
SEE THIS RING KEIICHI GAVE ME...?
AND THESE TWO RINGS-- THEY RESONATE.
♪shh iinngg♪

IT'S *THEMSELVES*. THEY FEAR THEY CAN'T CONTROL THEIR FEELINGS FOR YOU...
WHAT THOSE TWO FEAR NOW ISN'T *YOU*, CHIHIRO.
...AREN'T YOU?
HEH... AN INCURABLE ROMANTIC...
YES. I'M A *GIRL*, SO...

"ONE-LOVE"..! GAME, SET, AND MATCH TO BELL-DANDY!
HA HA HA!
....
...AND STILL BE A GIRL-- AT HEART?
REALLY? BUT HOW OLD CAN YOU BE...
WELL, I'M A BIT OLD TO BE A "GIRL."
...
ULP!
TAMI-YA!
OTAKI!
...
...WE WON'T KNOW WHO'S GONNA FIND THEM!
WE DONE PASSED OUT SO MANY O' DEM MAPS...

...FOR YOUR-SELVES.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE DONE WELL...
Y-YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S ALL FOR LOVE OF THE CLUB, MA'AM!
IT'S...uh... IT'S ALL FOR DUH MOTOR CLUB BUDGET!
N-NO, MA'AM!
YOU GOT IT ALL, WE SWEAR!
OH... ONE MORE THING.
sigh YES.
REALLY? THEN I'LL HOLD ON TO IT, SHALL I?
MA'AM ?
TAMIYA... OTAKI ...?
DE-MON.
THE MONEY IN YOUR BACK POCKETS, TOO.

I'LL KEEP THEM AS... TROPHIES OF WAR.
NO-- THESE.
...IDEA.
GOOD...
...


"A WOMAN IN LOVE...
"...IS A GIRL FOR-EVER!"
MEAN-WHILE...
...THE BAFFLED MOB, MAPS IN HAND...
...WAN-DERED HOPE-LESSLY THROUGH THE NIGHT.

EDITOR
Carl Gustav Horn

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Annie Gullion

DESIGNER
Scott Cook

PUBLISHER
Mike Richardson

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Creator Kosuke Fujishima in 1996!

His message to fans in the original Japanese *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 13:

Whether revving the throttle on my motorcycle, or pushing the buttons on my game controller, or (with the help of spilled super-glue) bonding all its fingers together, my right hand plays a big role in my daily life. But there's no use I have for it more important than drawing this manga.

P.S. Can you make out the calluses? They're driving me crazy . . .

letters to the ENCHANTRESS

10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, Oregon 97222
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NOTE: Full addresses and e-mail addresses will not be printed, unless you ask! All fan artwork, letters, and e-mails submitted become the property of Dark Horse Comics.

William Levy, who sent a drawing of Urd to vol. 9's "Letters to the Enchantress," returns with another, on the next page! Mr. Levy says:

Hi.

Just got my copy of vol. 32 and the *Oh My Goddess! Colors* book.

What can I say, but *Ah!* Not only a delightful treasure of color, but a wonderful reminder of why I fell in love with the series from the first time I saw it at a convention many, many years ago. It inspired me to drop a rose in my schedule and draw a portrait of Peorth, who's always underestimated in fan circles.

I look forward to further special projects in the future.

William Levy
nightmart@aol.com

Peorth is in some ways the most interesting of the five goddesses we've met thus far. Of course, it may not be fair to make a claim like that, because they haven't all gotten equal time—Lind, in particular, has only been seen to date in one story (although, like James Bond—the-don't-mess with Daniel Craig version—she will return), so it's hard to judge how she might be in other situations (especially in the just-hanging-out situations that are common with the other four). But the central question of *Oh My Goddess!* is Keiichi and Belldandy's relationship, and Lind has also had the least to do with that issue. Skuld has been jealous of Keiichi, and Urd has been flirtatious, but both of her sisters accepted a long time ago that Belldandy loves Keiichi and intends to be with him as long as he lives (to Skuld, this still doesn't grant K1 any rights of actual physical affection ^_^).

Peorth, however, is the goddess most easily comparable to Belldandy. Both are Goddesses First-Class, like Lind (and unlike Urd and Skuld), but unlike Lind, Belldandy and Peorth also share the same profession—they are both in the "service to mortals" business. Before Peorth was introduced, it might have been natural to assume that Belldandy's more kind, gentle, and temperate manner was part of what set a First-Class Goddess apart from your hijinks-and-tomfoolery types like Urd and Skuld. But Peorth not only had an, uh, very different approach to trying to serve Keiichi, she also didn't see anything wrong with it, and indeed seemed honestly confused at Belldandy's attitude.

If you consider her role in the story, Peorth is interesting in that she revealed Belldandy as a person who is with Keiichi because she loves him, not because she's doing her job as a Goddess. Now, of course, this is something Belldandy had said before in the story (in vol. 6, at the end of the "Lord of Terror" arc). But before Peorth, we never had the chance to compare how Belldandy *is* doing her job as a Goddess to how another Goddess in the same profession might do it.

And this makes Peorth interesting again, because the contrast with Belldandy suggests that Peorth—whom you're supposed to think of as outrageous and disruptive—was only so relative to Belldandy and Keiichi's unusual situation; that is, she was actually being more normal about their profession than Belldandy has been.

Since the entire story of *OMG!* is based on the fact Keiichi chose for his one wish that Belldandy be with him always (technically, he wished for a Goddess "like you" to be with him always—I wonder if that phrasing might one day be used to try to break them apart), we might forget that the sample wishes Bell suggested to K1 when they first met were "if you want to be a billionaire" and "if you want to destroy the world." Now, she said of the latter, "we prefer to avoid doing business with that sort of customer," but the point is she never suggested the wish must, or even should, be used for something selfless and heartwarming; we briefly glimpse the billionaire Keiichi, surrounded by women who presumably love him only for his height.

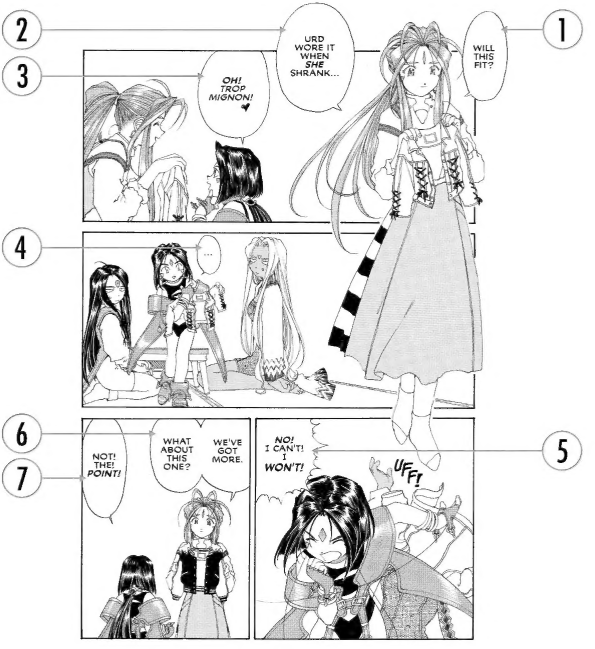
Remember, Peorth and Belldandy aren't freelancers or self-employed; they work for heavenly agencies. It's been strongly suggested that the normal way they're supposed to do their jobs is to meet one mortal's request, and then move on to help the next mortal; not stay with one mortal "always." It's interesting that Heaven never sanctions Peorth for her supposedly disruptive actions, whereas Belldandy has gotten into trouble with her "superior" on more than one occasion. Of course, a paranoid fellow might theorize it was also because Someone Up There wanted to break K1 and Belldandy apart "legally." As Peorth herself said, what are the odds of a mortal contacting their service twice . . . ?

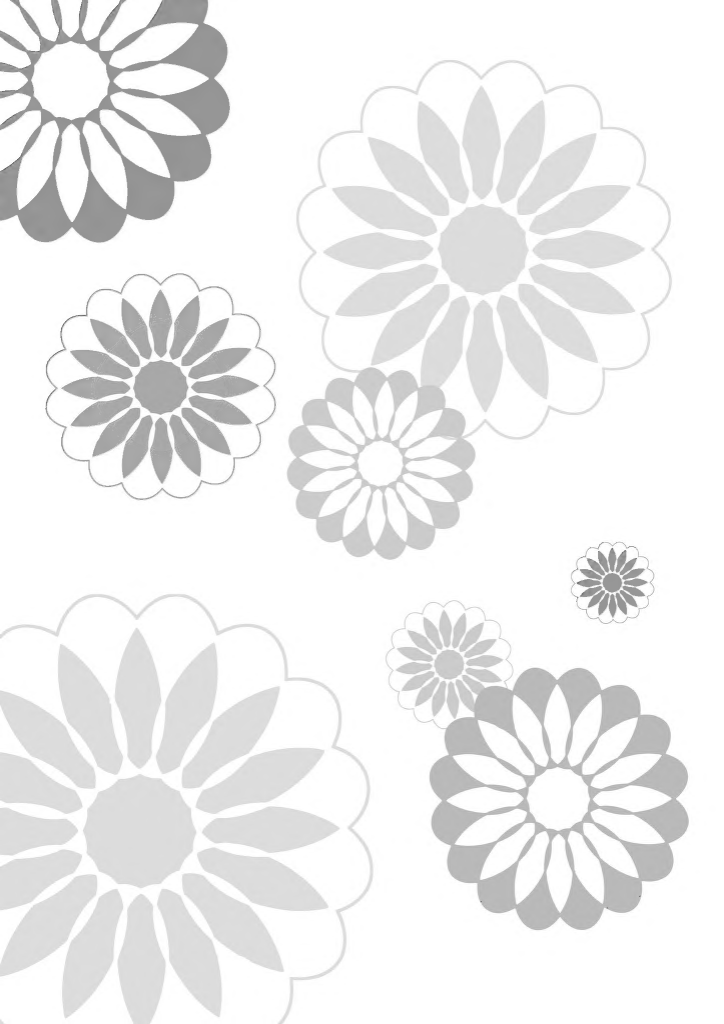
About page 42: if you, like Mr. Levy, also possess a copy of our recent book *Oh My Goddess! Colors*, you know there's a section in the back called "The *Goddess!* Garage" that details the history and technical specs of many of the vehicles—cars, bikes, planes, brooms—driven around by *OMG!*'s characters. Now, the Dark Horse version of *Oh My Goddess! Colors* contains everything that was in the Japanese original (and a bit more besides, as the DH version also talks about volumes of *OMG!* that hadn't come out yet when the Japanese version first hit). But I felt bad for Tamiya when I realized that his cute little Honda Motra was never included in either version of *Colors*, and so it appears here on page 42 as a bonus. I wonder why it wasn't featured, though. Don't they like cute things?

—CGH

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^





MANGA/HUMOR

Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 13

LEARNING TO RIDE A BICYCLE IS a little like encountering first love—a lot of panicked flailing and falling down! Skuld, who's suddenly doing both those things at once, can't understand why her dear sister Belldandy, who's always there to help, wants her to work this out on her own. But of course, Belldandy knows a wisdom Skuld needs to learn!

Winner of the 33rd Kodansha Manga Award, *Oh My Goddess!* is the longest-running manga title in English! This volumes includes a bonus article, a message from creator Kosuke Fujishima, and your fan mail!

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